



The English Schools Foundation  
英基學校協會

Consolidated Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 August 2024

# Report of the Board of Governors

The Board of Governors ("the Board") has pleasure in submitting its annual report together with the audited consolidated financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024.

## **Principal place of business**

The English Schools Foundation ("the Foundation") is a subvented organisation incorporated in Hong Kong under The English Schools Foundation Ordinance and has its office and principal place of business at 25/F, 1063 King's Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong.

## **Principal activity**

The principal activity of the Foundation and its subsidiaries ("the Group") is to own, manage, administer and operate schools to provide a modern liberal education through the medium of English language. In note 7, the Group sets out the principal activities and other particulars of the Foundation's subsidiaries.

## **Financial statements**

The surplus of the Group for the year ended 31 August 2024 and the state of the Group's affairs as at that date are set out in the consolidated financial statements on pages 4 to 60.

## **Transfer to reserves**

The Group has transferred the surplus for the year of \$338.0 million (2023: \$279.1 million) to reserves.

At 31 August 2024, the Group's reserves amounted to \$3,447.3 million (2023: \$3,106.8 million), being the excess of assets over liabilities. The Group sets out details of the reserves in note 27 and the statement of changes in reserves.

Under the terms of The English Schools Foundation Ordinance, no dividend or bonus whatsoever can be paid and no gift or division of money or any property whatsoever can be made by or on behalf of the Foundation to any of the officers or employees of the Foundation, any of the members of the Board or any of the students of the schools of the Foundation except by way of prize, reward or special grant or in the case of an employee of the Foundation, by way of a dividend or bonus payable under a contract of employment.

## **Fixed assets**

Fixed assets include buildings and building improvements, leasehold improvements, furniture and equipment of the Group's schools, offices and investment properties, other properties leased for own use, construction in progress and investment properties. At 31 August 2024, the net book value of the fixed assets was \$2,170.0 million (2023: \$2,279.3 million) and the depreciation charge for the year then ended was \$261.3 million (2023: \$264.1 million); see note 6 for details of movements in fixed assets.

## **Members of the Board**

The members of the Board during the financial year and up to the date of this report are:

Kim Mak (Chairman)	
Neville Shroff (Vice-chairman)	
Peter Burnett (Treasurer)	
Alec Tong	
Andrew Nowak-Solinski	
Anne Choi	
Chris Coyle	
Corinne Remedios	
Fatema Jangbarwala	
Linda Csellak	
Megan McCoy	
Mervyn Jacob	
Stephen Weatherseed	
Tim Blackburn	
Vindya Bhat	
Anne-Maree Soon	(elected by parents of students of schools of the Foundation, Renaissance College and Discovery College on 17 October 2023)
Charlotte Phillips	(elected by the Committee of Teaching Staff on 27 September 2023)
Daisy Lee	(nominated by the Nominating Committee on 9 December 2024)
David Butts	(elected by parents of students of schools of the Foundation, Renaissance College and Discovery College on 17 October 2023)
Edith Shih	(nominated by the Nominating Committee on 5 February 2024)
Mark Greene	(elected by parents of students of schools of the Foundation, Renaissance College and Discovery College on 17 October 2023)
Saffron Brown	(elected by the Committee of Support Staff on 16 January 2024)
Sam Counsell	(elected by the Committee of Teaching Staff on 6 November 2024)
Serena Zheng	(elected by parents of students of schools of the Foundation, Renaissance College and Discovery College on 16 October 2024)
Tony Ke	(elected by parents of students of schools of the Foundation, Renaissance College and Discovery College on 17 October 2023)
Ambra Debernardi	(retired on 3 October 2024)
Benny Ng	(retired on 3 December 2023)
Debbie Hanley	(resigned on 28 October 2024)
Denise Kee	(retired on 10 October 2024)
George Tibbetts	(retired on 6 November 2023)
Mary Schaus	(retired on 15 October 2023)
Pingyang Gao	(retired on 15 October 2023)
Belinda Greer	(Chief Executive Officer, ex officio)

## **Members of the Board (continued)**

The term of office of a member, other than an ex officio member, shall be 3 years. A member is eligible for re-nomination or re-election at the expiry of his or her term as a member, but a person shall not serve as a member consecutively for more than 2 terms.

At no time during the year was the Group a party to any arrangement to enable the members of the Board to acquire benefits by means of the acquisition of interest in the Group or any other body corporate.

## **Indemnity of members**

A permitted indemnity provision (as defined in section 22 of the English Schools Foundation Ordinance) for the benefit of the members of the Foundation is currently in force and was in force throughout this year.

## **Auditors**

KPMG retire and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-appointment. A resolution for the reappointment of KPMG as auditors of the Foundation is to be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

By order of the Board



Chairman  
Hong Kong,

09 DEC 2024



# Statement of comprehensive income for the year ended 31 August 2024 (Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

	Note	<i>The Group</i>		<i>The Foundation</i>	
		2024 \$'million	2023 \$'million	2024 \$'million	2023 \$'million
<b>Income</b>	<b>2</b>				
Operating income		3,110.9	2,852.5	2,258.3	2,073.0
Non-operating income		117.0	120.6	82.8	85.7
		<u>3,227.9</u>	<u>2,973.1</u>	<u>2,341.1</u>	<u>2,158.7</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
<i>Staff expenses</i>					
Basic salaries					
- Professional		1,162.4	1,107.7	852.0	802.6
- Other staff		468.3	427.8	360.4	327.7
Gratuities and allowances		456.2	434.6	330.7	312.1
Accommodation		28.6	27.0	28.6	27.0
Medical expenses		86.7	71.7	64.8	53.1
Passage		1.3	1.7	1.0	1.5
	3(a)	<u>2,203.5</u>	<u>2,070.5</u>	<u>1,637.5</u>	<u>1,524.0</u>
<i>Other expenses</i>					
Depreciation on schools and offices		257.8	261.6	215.0	217.2
Repairs and maintenance		122.9	121.5	105.8	105.4
Other operating expenses	4	223.5	206.5	155.1	140.7
Scholarship fund and hardship allowance	20	75.7	60.1	19.2	7.3
		<u>679.9</u>	<u>649.7</u>	<u>495.1</u>	<u>470.6</u>
<b>Total expenses</b>		<u>2,883.4</u>	<u>2,720.2</u>	<u>2,132.6</u>	<u>1,994.6</u>
<b>Surplus before income tax</b>		344.5	252.9	208.5	164.1
Less: income tax (expenses)/credit	5	(6.5)	26.2	(6.5)	26.2
<b>Surplus for the year</b>	<b>3</b>	<u>338.0</u>	<u>279.1</u>	<u>202.0</u>	<u>190.3</u>

## Statement of comprehensive income for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

(Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

	Note	<u>The Group</u>		<u>The Foundation</u>	
		2024 \$'million	2023 \$'million	2024 \$'million	2023 \$'million
<b>Surplus for the year</b>		338.0	279.1	202.0	190.3
<b>Other comprehensive income for the year</b>					
<i>Item that will not be reclassified to surplus or deficit:</i>					
Remeasurement of net defined benefit scheme assets	9(b)(v)	2.5	(0.4)	2.5	(0.4)
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		<u>340.5</u>	<u>278.7</u>	<u>204.5</u>	<u>189.9</u>
<b>Represented by:</b>					
Operating surplus		223.5	158.1	121.7	104.2
Capital fund surplus		<u>117.0</u>	<u>120.6</u>	<u>82.8</u>	<u>85.7</u>
		<u>340.5</u>	<u>278.7</u>	<u>204.5</u>	<u>189.9</u>

The notes on pages 12 to 60 form part of these financial statements.

## Statement of financial position as at 31 August 2024 (Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

	Note	The Group		The Foundation	
		2024 \$'million	2023 \$'million	2024 \$'million	2023 \$'million
<b>Non-current assets</b>					
Fixed assets	6				
- Investment properties		17.0	25.7	17.0	25.7
- Other properties, plant and equipment		2,153.0	2,253.6	1,910.7	1,983.8
		2,170.0	2,279.3	1,927.7	2,009.5
Investment in subsidiaries	7	-	-	549.1	549.1
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	8	587.7	518.2	-	-
Defined benefit retirement scheme	9	14.2	40.0	14.2	40.0
		2,771.9	2,837.5	2,491.0	2,598.6
<b>Current assets</b>	10				
Inventories		0.7	0.4	-	-
Rental and utility deposits		14.9	14.5	8.5	9.1
Prepayments		37.1	34.0	27.9	25.6
Loans to staff		2.6	3.1	1.7	2.2
Fees and other receivables	11	21.1	22.5	19.2	18.6
Amount due from subsidiaries	7	-	-	12.1	8.6
Loan to a subsidiary	7	-	-	-	7.9
Restricted cash	12	3.1	3.1	-	-
Deposits with original maturities over three months		1,503.4	1,212.7	1,467.3	1,178.0
Cash and cash equivalents	13	615.2	544.5	160.5	173.8
		2,198.1	1,834.8	1,697.2	1,423.8

# Statement of financial position as at 31 August 2024 (continued)

(Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)



	Note	The Group		The Foundation	
		2024 \$'million	2023 \$'million	2024 \$'million	2023 \$'million
<b>Current liabilities</b>	10				
Fees received in advance	14	161.7	163.9	74.7	78.8
Nomination rights received in advance	15	3.7	4.2	3.4	3.7
Provision to meet staff conditions of service	16	150.1	148.4	117.5	115.6
Accounts payables and accruals	17	332.1	398.9	366.8	431.0
Tax payable	18	10.2	3.7	10.2	3.7
Scholarship fund and hardship allowance	20	86.6	68.5	45.7	36.1
Lease liabilities	21	17.3	18.9	8.1	6.3
Refundable capital levy	22	10.2	10.5	10.2	10.5
Debenture	23	32.5	40.6	-	-
Deferred income					
- Non-refundable building levy	24	8.0	7.8	-	-
- Non-refundable capital levy	25	33.3	31.2	33.3	31.2
- Individual nomination rights	15	32.9	31.8	21.7	21.6
- Corporate nomination rights	26	2.0	1.5	2.0	1.5
		<u>880.6</u>	<u>929.9</u>	<u>693.6</u>	<u>740.0</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>1,317.5</u>	<u>904.9</u>	<u>1,003.6</u>	<u>683.8</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>4,089.4</u>	<u>3,742.4</u>	<u>3,494.6</u>	<u>3,282.4</u>



# Statement of financial position as at 31 August 2024 (continued) (Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

		The Group		The Foundation	
	Note	2024	2023	2024	2023
		\$'million	\$'million	\$'million	\$'million
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>					
Lease liabilities	21	30.4	22.3	13.8	1.0
Refundable capital levy	22	20.6	32.8	20.6	32.8
Debenture	23	36.4	37.2	-	-
Deferred income					
- Non-refundable building levy	24	43.8	43.8	-	-
- Non-refundable capital levy	25	262.3	258.5	262.3	258.5
- Individual nomination rights	15	220.5	213.3	141.7	138.8
- Corporate nomination rights	26	28.1	27.7	28.1	27.7
		642.1	635.6	466.5	458.8
<b>NET ASSETS</b>					
		3,447.3	3,106.8	3,028.1	2,823.6
<b>RESERVES</b>					
	27				
General reserve		716.3	546.7	435.1	393.4
Capital fund		232.9	213.4	94.9	83.5
Investment fund		549.1	549.1	549.1	549.1
Building reserve		1,643.3	1,526.2	1,643.3	1,526.2
Development fund		30.0	-	30.0	-
Schools reserves		275.7	271.4	275.7	271.4
		3,447.3	3,106.8	3,028.1	2,823.6

Approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Governors on **09 DEC 2024**

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) Members of the Board of Governors  
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The notes on pages 12 to 60 form part of these financial statements.

# Statement of changes in reserves for the year ended 31 August 2024 (Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

## The Group

	General reserve \$'million	Capital fund (note 27(a)) \$'million	Investment fund (note 27(b)) \$'million	Building reserve (note 27(c)) \$'million	Development fund (note 27(d)) \$'million	Schools reserves (note 27(e)) \$'million	Total \$'million
<b>At 1 September 2022</b>	388.3	190.0	549.1	1,449.3	-	251.4	2,828.1
Surplus for the year	97.9	120.6	-	-	-	60.6	279.1
Transfers	60.9	(97.2)	-	76.9	-	(40.6)	-
Other comprehensive income	(0.4)	-	-	-	-	-	(0.4)
Total comprehensive income	158.4	23.4	-	76.9	-	20.0	278.7
<b>At 31 August 2023 and 1 September 2023</b>	546.7	213.4	549.1	1,526.2	-	271.4	3,106.8
Surplus for the year	152.1	117.0	-	-	-	68.9	338.0
Transfers	15.0	(97.5)	-	117.1	30.0	(64.6)	-
Other comprehensive income	2.5	-	-	-	-	-	2.5
Total comprehensive income	169.6	19.5	-	117.1	30.0	4.3	340.5
<b>At 31 August 2024</b>	716.3	232.9	549.1	1,643.3	30.0	275.7	3,447.3

## The Foundation

	General reserve \$'million	Capital fund (note 27(a)) \$'million	Investment fund (note 27(b)) \$'million	Building reserve (note 27(c)) \$'million	Development fund (note 27(d)) \$'million	Schools reserves (note 27(e)) \$'million	Total \$'million
<b>At 1 September 2022</b>	313.5	70.4	549.1	1,449.3	-	251.4	2,633.7
Surplus for the year	44.0	85.7	-	-	-	60.6	190.3
Transfers	36.3	(72.6)	-	76.9	-	(40.6)	-
Other comprehensive income	(0.4)	-	-	-	-	-	(0.4)
Total comprehensive income	79.9	13.1	-	76.9	-	20.0	189.9
<b>At 31 August 2023 and 1 September 2023</b>	393.4	83.5	549.1	1,526.2	-	271.4	2,823.6
Surplus for the year	50.3	82.8	-	-	-	68.9	202.0
Transfers	(11.1)	(71.4)	-	117.1	30.0	(64.6)	-
Other comprehensive income	2.5	-	-	-	-	-	2.5
Total comprehensive income	41.7	11.4	-	117.1	30.0	4.3	204.5
<b>At 31 August 2024</b>	435.1	94.9	549.1	1,643.3	30.0	275.7	3,028.1

The notes on pages 12 to 60 form part of these financial statements.

## Cash flow statement for the year ended 31 August 2024 (Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

	Note	<u>The Group</u>		<u>The Foundation</u>	
		2024 \$'million	2023 \$'million	2024 \$'million	2023 \$'million
<b>Operating activities</b>					
<b>Net cash generated from operating activities</b>	13(b)	382.4	363.8	322.4	313.0
<b>Investing activities</b>					
Payments for the purchase of fixed assets less capital creditors		(224.2)	(256.2)	(223.9)	(228.9)
Increase in bank deposits with original maturities over three months		(290.7)	(479.1)	(289.3)	(477.6)
Government grants received		23.4	284.4	23.4	284.4
Interest received		89.7	48.9	76.5	39.1
Payment for purchase of financial assets		(43.2)	(117.8)	-	-
Proceeds from sale of financial assets		47.3	108.9	-	-
Repayment from a subsidiary		-	-	7.9	7.8
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>		(397.7)	(410.9)	(405.4)	(375.2)

## Cash flow statement for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued) (Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

	Note	<i>The Group</i>		<i>The Foundation</i>	
		2024 \$'million	2023 \$'million	2024 \$'million	2023 \$'million
<b>Financing activities</b>					
Decrease in refundable capital levy	13(c)	(12.5)	(15.7)	(12.5)	(15.7)
Proceeds from issue of nomination rights	13(c)	25.6	17.2	36.5	37.8
Redemption of corporate nomination right	13(c)	(2.5)	(2.5)	(2.5)	(2.5)
Proceeds from non-refundable building levy	13(c)	21.1	21.3	-	-
Proceeds from non-refundable capital levy	13(c)	58.3	66.1	58.3	66.1
Proceeds from issuance of debenture	13(c)	29.5	36.2	-	-
Refund of debenture	13(c)	(9.1)	(12.8)	-	-
Capital element of lease rentals paid	13(c)	(22.0)	(24.7)	(9.4)	(10.6)
Interest element of lease rentals paid	13(c)	(2.4)	(1.2)	(0.7)	(0.3)
<b>Net cash generated from financing activities</b>		<u>86.0</u>	<u>83.9</u>	<u>69.7</u>	<u>74.8</u>
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>		70.7	36.8	(13.3)	12.6
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year</b>		<u>544.5</u>	<u>507.7</u>	<u>173.8</u>	<u>161.2</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	13(a)	<u>615.2</u>	<u>544.5</u>	<u>160.5</u>	<u>173.8</u>

The notes on pages 12 to 60 form part of these financial statements.



# Notes to the financial statements

(Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

## 1 Background

The English Schools Foundation ("the Foundation") is incorporated in Hong Kong under The English Schools Foundation Ordinance. The Foundation has five subsidiaries, ESF Educational Services Limited ("ESL"), ESF Investments Limited ("ESFI"), ESF Holdings (BVI) Limited, ESF Properties Holdings (HK) Limited and ESF Properties Holdings (CHK) Limited (together referred to as "the Group"). The Board of Governors of the Foundation ("the Board") is responsible for the preparation of consolidated financial statements.

The principal activity of the Group is to own, manage, administer and operate schools to provide a modern liberal education through the medium of English language. The principal activities and other particulars of the Foundation's subsidiaries are set out in note 7 to the financial statements.

## 2 Income

### *Accounting policy*

The Group classifies income as revenue when it arises from the sale of goods, the provision of services or the use by others of the Group's assets under leases in the ordinary course of the Group's business.

The Group recognises revenue when control over a product or service is transferred to the customer, or the lessee has the right to use the asset, at the amount of promised consideration to which the Group is expected to be entitled, excluding those amounts collected on behalf of third parties.

Further details of the Group's revenue and other income recognition policies are as follows:

#### (i) Tuition fees

The Group recognises tuition fees when an education service is provided.

The Group classifies tuition fees received in advance of the following academic year as fees received in advance and the Group carries these in the statement of financial position as liabilities at the end of the financial year.

## **2 Income (continued)**

### **(ii) Programme income**

The Group recognises programme income on an accrual basis in respect of programmes provided; unearned programme fees are treated as fees received in advance.

### **(iii) Application fee income**

The Group recognises application fee income when a registration service is provided.

### **(iv) Rental income**

The Group recognises rental income, which is income earned from the licensing use of school facilities, investment properties and other properties on an accrual basis.

### **(v) Donations**

The Group recognises donations when the Group becomes entitled to the donations and it is probable that they will be received. The Group recognises donations relating to expenditure on a systematic basis in the same year in which the related expenditure is incurred. The Group recognises donations that compensate for the cost of an asset as deferred income that is recognised as income on a straight-line basis over the useful life of the related asset.

### **(vi) Interest income**

The Group recognises interest income as it accrues using the effective interest method.

### **(vii) Resale income**

The Group uses an accruals basis to recognise resale income that represents income earned from selling textbooks, stationery and school uniforms.

### **(viii) Fair value change of financial assets**

For an explanation of the Group's accounting policy for financial assets at fair value through profit and loss and an explanation of how the Group determines the fair value of financial assets, see notes 8 and 28(f) respectively.

## 2 Income (continued)

	<i>The Group</i>		<i>The Foundation</i>	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	\$'million	\$'million	\$'million	\$'million
<b>Operating income</b>				
<b>Revenue from contracts with customers within the scope of HKFRS 15</b>				
Recognised at a point in time				
- Application fee income	19.4	12.0	13.8	8.7
- Miscellaneous income	20.6	26.3	12.3	5.2
	<u>40.0</u>	<u>38.3</u>	<u>26.1</u>	<u>13.9</u>
Recognised over time				
- Tuition fees	2,603.7	2,404.1	1,877.8	1,729.0
- Programme income	64.2	60.8	-	-
- Income from subsidiaries	-	-	37.2	35.9
	<u>2,667.9</u>	<u>2,464.9</u>	<u>1,915.0</u>	<u>1,764.9</u>
<b>Revenue from other sources</b>				
- Government grants	129.0	150.2	129.0	150.2
- Rental income	103.9	95.8	104.8	96.1
- Donations	8.4	10.6	6.9	8.8
- Interest income	89.7	48.9	76.5	39.1
- Net movement in realised gains on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	6.0	7.5	-	-
- Net movement in unrealised gains on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	66.0	36.3	-	-
	<u>403.0</u>	<u>349.3</u>	<u>317.2</u>	<u>294.2</u>
<b>Total operating income</b>	<u>3,110.9</u>	<u>2,852.5</u>	<u>2,258.3</u>	<u>2,073.0</u>
<b>Non-operating income</b>				
<b>Revenue from contracts with customers within the scope of HKFRS 15 recognised over time</b>				
- Individual nomination rights	42.1	44.4	28.8	30.1
- Corporate nomination rights	1.6	2.9	1.6	2.9
- Non-refundable building levy	20.9	20.6	-	-
- Non-refundable capital levy	52.4	52.7	52.4	52.7
	<u>117.0</u>	<u>120.6</u>	<u>82.8</u>	<u>85.7</u>
<b>Total non-operating income</b>	<u>117.0</u>	<u>120.6</u>	<u>82.8</u>	<u>85.7</u>

### 3 Surplus for the year

Surplus for the year is arrived at after charging/(crediting):

	Note	<i>The Group</i>		<i>The Foundation</i>	
		2024 \$'million	2023 \$'million	2024 \$'million	2023 \$'million
<b>(a) Staff costs</b>					
Contribution to defined contribution retirement schemes		40.7	38.4	29.8	27.8
Net defined benefit retirement scheme expenses	9(b)(v)	1.2	0.5	1.2	0.5
Retirement costs		41.9	38.9	31.0	28.3
Salaries, wages and other benefits		2,161.6	2,031.6	1,606.5	1,495.7
		<u>2,203.5</u>	<u>2,070.5</u>	<u>1,637.5</u>	<u>1,524.0</u>
	Note	<i>The Group</i>		<i>The Foundation</i>	
		2024 \$'million	2023 \$'million	2024 \$'million	2023 \$'million
<b>(b) Other items</b>					
Gross rental income from investment properties		(54.8)	(49.1)	(54.8)	(49.1)
Direct rental outgoings in respect of:					
- investment properties under operating leases		26.8	23.5	26.8	23.5
- vacant investment properties		0.6	2.7	0.6	2.7
Depreciation	6				
- owned property, plant and equipment		238.8	239.8	208.4	209.0
- right-of-use assets		22.5	24.3	10.1	10.7
Loss on disposals of other properties, plant and equipment		0.9	8.3	0.9	6.9



#### 4 Other operating expenses

	Note	The Group		The Foundation	
		2024 \$'million	2023 \$'million	2024 \$'million	2023 \$'million
Audit fees		1.6	1.3	1.1	0.9
Cost of goods sold		0.8	0.7	-	-
Interest on lease liabilities		2.4	1.2	0.7	0.3
Investment expenses		2.0	2.1	-	-
Impairment loss of fees and other receivables		2.7	1.0	1.8	0.5
Information technology expenses		33.1	25.1	24.2	18.6
Insurance		7.5	8.3	5.1	5.6
Legal and professional fees		4.0	3.8	2.9	3.0
Library		3.1	2.8	1.4	1.3
Loss on disposals of other properties, plant and equipment		0.9	8.3	0.9	6.9
Net government rent and rates	19(b)	1.6	1.9	0.6	1.0
Professional development and training		24.7	17.4	22.6	15.2
Property rentals:					
- minimum lease payments		1.6	1.1	-	0.4
- contingent rentals		1.1	0.9	-	-
Property management fee		4.4	4.1	2.1	2.0
Public relations and marketing expenses		7.6	7.8	3.3	3.4
Printing and stationery		4.4	4.7	3.2	3.7
Recruitment expenses		6.5	8.7	5.7	7.0
Teaching resources and materials		46.3	33.0	33.6	21.4
Utilities		37.5	39.4	27.4	29.0
General expenses		29.7	32.9	18.5	20.5
		<u>223.5</u>	<u>206.5</u>	<u>155.1</u>	<u>140.7</u>

#### 5 Taxation

The Foundation and ESL are exempted from taxation pursuant to section 88 of the Hong Kong Inland Revenue Ordinance. ESFI has not made provision for Hong Kong Profits Tax as ESFI did not have assessable profits subject to Hong Kong Profits Tax.

The Foundation made a profits tax provision of \$6.5 million on rental income earned from investment properties for the year (2023: \$3.7 million) (see note 18) at the Hong Kong Profits Tax rate of 16.5%. Since the Chief Executive in Council granted profits tax exemption on the Foundation's profits arising from property letting activities for the years of assessment up to and including the year of assessment 2022/23, i.e. year ended 31 August 2022, profits tax provision brought forward of \$29.9 million was credited to the statement of comprehensive income in 2023. Net income tax credit was \$26.2 million for the previous year.

#### 6 Fixed assets

##### **Accounting policy**

##### (i) Group owned property, plant and equipment

The Group records fixed assets other than construction in progress in the statement of financial position at cost less related government grants, accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

## 6 Fixed assets (continued)

The Group records construction in progress at cost less related government grants and impairment losses, and transfers it to other categories of fixed assets when substantially all the activities necessary to prepare the assets for their intended use are completed.

### (ii) Leased assets

#### (a) As a lessee

At inception of a contract, the Group assesses whether the contract is, or contains, a lease. A contract is, or contains, a lease if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration. Control is conveyed where the customer has both the right to direct the use of the identified asset and to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from that use.

At the lease commencement date, the Group recognises a right-of-use asset and a lease liability, except for short-term leases that have a lease term of 12 months or less and leases of low-value assets. When the Group enters into a lease in respect of a low-value asset, the Group decides whether to capitalise the lease on a lease-by-lease basis. The lease payments associated with those leases which are not capitalised are recognised as an expense on a systematic basis over the lease term.

Where the lease is capitalised, the lease liability is initially recognised at the present value of the lease payments payable over the lease term, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease or, if that rate cannot be readily determined, using a relevant incremental borrowing rate. After initial recognition, the lease liability is measured at amortised cost and interest expense is calculated using the effective interest method. Variable lease payments that do not depend on an index or rate are not included in the measurement of the lease liability and hence are charged to the statement of comprehensive income in the accounting period in which they are incurred.

The right-of-use asset recognised when a lease is capitalised is initially measured at cost, which comprises the initial amount of the lease liability plus any lease payments made at or before the commencement date, and any initial direct costs incurred. Where applicable, the cost of the right-of-use assets also includes an estimate of costs to dismantle and remove the underlying asset or to restore the underlying asset or the site on which it is located, discounted to their present value, less any lease incentives received. The right-of-use asset is subsequently stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses following the Group's policy relating to owned assets.

The lease liability is remeasured when there is a change in future lease payments arising from a change in an index or rate, or there is a change in the Group's estimate of the amount expected to be payable under a residual value guarantee, or there is a change arising from the reassessment of whether the Group will be reasonably certain to exercise a purchase, extension or termination option. When the lease liability is remeasured in this way, a corresponding adjustment is made to the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset, or is recorded in profit or loss if the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset has been reduced to zero.



## 6 Fixed assets (continued)

The Group presents right-of-use assets that do not meet the definition of investment property in "other property, plant and equipment" and presents lease liabilities separately in the statement of financial position.

### (b) As a lessor

Investment properties are land and/or buildings which are owned or held under a leasehold interest to earn rental income and/or for capital appreciation.

When the Group acts as a lessor, it determines at lease inception whether each lease is a finance lease or an operating lease. A lease is classified as a finance lease if it transfers substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to the ownership of an underlying asset to the lessee. If this is not the case, the lease is classified as an operating lease.

When a contract contains lease and non-lease components, the Group allocates the consideration in the contract to each component on a relative stand-alone selling price basis. The rental income from operating leases is recognised in accordance with note 2(iv).

### (iii) Subsequent measurement

The Group charges depreciation that is designed to write off the cost of fixed assets, less related government grants and their estimated residual value, if any, using the straight-line method over their estimated useful lives as follows:

- Buildings/investment properties	20 - 50 years
- Building improvements	10 - 20 years
- Leasehold improvements	Shorter of the lease term or useful life of 10 years
- Computer equipment	3 - 5 years
- Furniture and other equipment	5 - 10 years
- Other properties leased for own use	Over the unexpired term of the lease

Annually the Group reviews the estimated life of the assets and the estimates of residual value. The Group states construction in progress at cost and it is not subject to any depreciation charge. Where parts of an item of fixed assets have different useful lives, the cost of the item is allocated on a reasonable basis between the parts and each part is depreciated separately.

The Group adds subsequent expenditure relating to fixed assets that the Group has already recognised to the carrying amount of the asset provided the Group considers that it is probable that the Group will obtain future economic benefits, in excess of the originally assessed standard of performance of the existing asset, from the expenditure. All other subsequent expenditure is recognised as an expense in the year in which it is incurred.

## 6 Fixed assets (continued)

On the date of the retirement or disposal of an item of fixed assets, the Group recognises the related gains and losses being the difference between the net disposal proceeds and the carrying amount of the item.

### (a) The Group

	Buildings and building improvements			Furniture and equipment			Other properties leased for own use \$'million Note 6(g)	Construction in progress \$'million	Sub-total \$'million	Investment properties \$'million	Total \$'million
	Foundation's Schools \$'million	Renaissance College & Discovery College \$'million	Quarters & others \$'million	Leasehold improvements \$'million	Foundation's Schools \$'million	Renaissance College & Discovery College \$'million	Quarters and others*** \$'million				
<b>Cost:</b>											
At 1 September 2023	3,481.9	755.1	114.7	54.5	677.0	181.7	87.5	0.8	5,451.5	251.7	5,703.2
Additions	68.7	2.0	3.8	0.4	51.0	5.8	5.4	12.8	177.5	-	177.5
Transfers of construction in progress	3.3	(0.1)	-	-	-	0.1	-	(3.3)	-	-	-
Disposals/adjustments*	(2.8)	-	-	-	(18.6)	(4.8)	(3.9)	-	(30.1)	-	(30.1)
At 31 August 2024	3,551.1	757.0	118.5	54.9	709.4	182.8	89.0	10.3	5,598.9	251.7	5,850.6
<b>Government grants:</b>											
At 1 September 2023	(555.3)	(328.7)	(45.5)	-	-	-	-	-	(929.5)	-	(929.5)
Additions	(23.4)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(23.4)	-	(23.4)
At 31 August 2024	(578.7)	(328.7)	(45.5)	-	-	-	-	-	(952.9)	-	(952.9)
<b>Accumulated depreciation:</b>											
At 1 September 2023	(1,368.9)	(161.9)	(38.3)	(50.1)	(432.7)	(86.1)	(69.4)	-	(2,268.4)	(226.0)	(2,494.4)
Charge for the year**	(132.2)	(14.2)	(3.7)	(1.5)	(57.4)	(16.7)	(5.9)	-	(252.6)	(8.7)	(261.3)
Write-back on disposals	1.5	-	-	-	18.0	4.8	3.7	-	28.0	-	28.0
At 31 August 2024	(1,499.6)	(176.1)	(42.0)	(51.6)	(472.1)	(98.0)	(71.6)	-	(2,493.0)	(234.7)	(2,727.7)
<b>Net book value:</b>											
At 31 August 2024	1,472.8	252.2	31.0	3.3	237.3	84.8	17.4	10.3	2,153.0	17.0	2,170.0



## 6 Fixed assets (continued)

	Buildings and building improvements			Furniture and equipment			Other properties leased for own use	Construction in progress	Sub-total	Investment properties	Total
	Foundation's Schools \$'million	Renaissance College & Discovery College \$'million	Quarters & others \$'million	Leasehold improvements \$'million	Foundation's Schools \$'million	Renaissance College & Discovery College \$'million	Quarters and others*** \$'million	\$'million	\$'million	\$'million	\$'million
<b>Cost:</b>											
At 1 September 2022	3,398.6	742.0	102.4	54.1	673.1	100.7	85.1	84.7	5,318.7	251.7	5,570.4
Additions	40.0	9.8	8.3	0.6	38.2	11.0	3.7	62.0	193.9	-	193.9
Transfers of construction in progress	56.7	3.3	4.1	-	3.9	77.1	-	(145.1)	-	-	-
Disposals/adjustments*	(13.4)	-	(0.1)	(0.2)	(38.2)	(7.1)	(1.3)	(0.8)	(61.1)	-	(61.1)
At 31 August 2023	3,481.9	755.1	114.7	54.5	677.0	181.7	87.5	0.8	5,451.5	251.7	5,703.2
<b>Government grants:</b>											
At 1 September 2022	(543.9)	(328.7)	(45.5)	-	-	-	-	-	(918.1)	-	(918.1)
Additions	(11.4)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(11.4)	-	(11.4)
At 31 August 2023	(555.3)	(328.7)	(45.5)	-	-	-	-	-	(929.5)	-	(929.5)
<b>Accumulated depreciation:</b>											
At 1 September 2022	(1,256.3)	(148.5)	(35.6)	(46.7)	(399.1)	(76.5)	(64.8)	-	(2,065.7)	(217.3)	(2,283.0)
Charge for the year**	(125.6)	(13.4)	(2.7)	(3.6)	(65.4)	(16.0)	(5.9)	-	(255.4)	(8.7)	(264.1)
Write-back on disposals	13.0	-	-	0.2	31.8	6.4	1.3	-	52.7	-	52.7
At 31 August 2023	(1,368.9)	(161.9)	(38.3)	(50.1)	(432.7)	(86.1)	(69.4)	-	(2,268.4)	(226.0)	(2,494.4)
<b>Net book value:</b>											
At 31 August 2023	1,557.7	264.5	30.9	4.4	244.3	95.6	18.1	0.8	2,253.6	25.7	2,279.3

\* Adjustments on cost and depreciation of fixed assets relate to certain fixed assets capitalised at the time of commissioning based on estimates. Such assets' final values have been adjusted following finalisation of contract claims with contractors at final contract values during the year.

\*\* Depreciation charge of quarters of the Group for the year ended 31 August 2024 was \$3.5 million (2023: \$2.5 million). The amount is included in "Accommodation" in the statement of comprehensive income. Remaining charges represent depreciation on schools and offices and are shown separately in the statement of comprehensive income.

\*\*\* The cost and related accumulated depreciation of the furniture and equipment of the Group's kindergartens are included in "Quarters and others" under "Furniture and Equipment" category.

## 6 Fixed assets (continued)

### (b) The Foundation

	Buildings and building improvements			Furniture and equipment				Other properties leased for own use \$ million Note 6(g)	Construction in progress \$ million	Sub-total \$ million	Investment properties \$ million	Total \$ million
	Foundation's Schools \$ million	Renaissance College & Discovery College \$ million	Quarters & others \$ million	Leasehold improvements \$ million	Foundation's Schools \$ million	Renaissance College & Discovery College \$ million	Quarters and others*** \$ million					
<b>Cost:</b>												
At 1 September 2023	3,481.9	236.7	114.7	6.9	677.0	10.8	56.1	29.1	0.7	4,613.9	251.7	4,865.6
Additions	68.7	-	3.8	-	51.0	-	2.9	23.1	12.6	162.1	-	162.1
Transfers of construction in progress	3.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(3.3)	-	-	-
Disposals/adjustments*	(2.8)	-	-	-	(18.6)	(0.7)	(1.4)	-	-	(23.5)	-	(23.5)
At 31 August 2024	3,551.1	236.7	118.5	6.9	709.4	10.1	57.6	52.2	10.0	4,752.5	251.7	5,004.2
<b>Government grants:</b>												
At 1 September 2023	(555.3)	-	(45.5)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(600.8)	-	(600.8)
Additions	(23.4)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(23.4)	-	(23.4)
At 31 August 2024	(578.7)	-	(45.5)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(624.2)	-	(624.2)
<b>Accumulated depreciation:</b>												
At 1 September 2023	(1,368.9)	(100.6)	(38.3)	(6.4)	(432.7)	(10.8)	(49.0)	(22.6)	-	(2,029.3)	(226.0)	(2,255.3)
Charge for the year**	(132.2)	(4.0)	(3.7)	(0.3)	(57.4)	-	(3.1)	(9.1)	-	(209.8)	(8.7)	(218.5)
Write-back on disposals	1.5	-	-	-	18.0	0.7	1.3	-	-	21.5	-	21.5
At 31 August 2024	(1,499.6)	(104.6)	(42.0)	(6.7)	(472.1)	(10.1)	(50.8)	(31.7)	-	(2,217.6)	(234.7)	(2,452.3)
<b>Net book value:</b>												
At 31 August 2024	1,472.8	132.1	31.0	0.2	237.3	-	6.8	20.5	10.0	1,910.7	17.0	1,927.7

## 6 Fixed assets (continued)

	Buildings and building improvements			Furniture and equipment				Other properties leased for own use \$'million Note 6(g)	Construction in progress \$'million	Sub-total \$'million	Investment properties \$'million	Total \$'million
	Foundation's Schools \$'million	Renaissance College & Discovery College \$'million	Quarters & others \$'million	Leasehold improvements \$'million	Foundation's Schools \$'million	Renaissance College & Discovery College \$'million	Quarters and others*** \$'million					
<b>Cost:</b>												
At 1 September 2022	3,398.6	236.7	102.4	6.9	673.1	11.2	54.9	29.1	20.5	4,533.4	251.7	4,785.1
Additions	40.0	-	8.3	-	38.2	-	2.1	-	44.9	133.5	-	133.5
Transfers of construction in progress	56.7	-	4.1	-	3.9	-	-	-	(64.7)	-	-	-
Disposals/adjustments*	(13.4)	-	(0.1)	-	(38.2)	(0.4)	(0.9)	-	-	(53.0)	-	(53.0)
At 31 August 2023	3,481.9	236.7	114.7	6.9	677.0	10.8	56.1	29.1	0.7	4,613.9	251.7	4,865.6
<b>Government grants:</b>												
At 1 September 2022	(543.9)	-	(45.5)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(589.4)	-	(589.4)
Additions	(11.4)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(11.4)	-	(11.4)
At 31 August 2023	(555.3)	-	(45.5)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(600.8)	-	(600.8)
<b>Accumulated depreciation:</b>												
At 1 September 2022	(1,256.3)	(96.6)	(35.6)	(5.9)	(395.1)	(11.2)	(46.8)	(12.9)	-	(1,864.4)	(217.3)	(2,081.7)
Charge for the year**	(125.6)	(4.0)	(2.7)	(0.5)	(65.4)	-	(3.1)	(9.7)	-	(211.0)	(8.7)	(219.7)
Write-back on disposals	13.0	-	-	-	31.8	0.4	0.9	-	-	46.1	-	46.1
At 31 August 2023	(1,368.9)	(100.6)	(38.3)	(6.4)	(432.7)	(10.8)	(49.0)	(22.6)	-	(2,029.3)	(226.0)	(2,255.3)
<b>Net book value:</b>												
At 31 August 2023	1,557.7	136.1	30.9	0.5	244.3	-	7.1	6.5	0.7	1,983.8	25.7	2,009.5

\* Adjustments on cost and depreciation of fixed assets relate to certain fixed assets capitalised at the time of commissioning based on estimates. Such assets' final values have been adjusted following finalisation of contract claims with contractors at final contract values during the year.

\*\* Depreciation charge of quarters of the Foundation for the year ended 31 August 2024 was \$3.5 million (2023: \$2.5 million). The amount is included in "Accommodation" in the statement of comprehensive income. Remaining charges represent depreciation on schools and offices and are shown separately in the statement of comprehensive income.



## 6 Fixed assets (continued)

- (c) The Group's schools are built on sites provided by the Government (either free of premium or nominal premium) on education leases which impose certain restrictions on use. All the leases run until 2047 or later, except for Renaissance College and Discovery College, which are on temporary leases renewable until the lease is terminated by the Government.

### (d) *Residential/investment properties*

The Group owns 198 (2023: 198) housing units which are used as staff quarters or leased to third parties.

The Board has reviewed the residential property portfolio. Non-assignment clauses contained in the Conditions of Grants for the 87 units of Braemar Heights prevent their sale on the open market. The majority of the 111 (2023: 111) remaining property units are leased to third parties and hence the Group classified the carrying value of buildings and building improvements of these units as investment properties. An independent firm of surveyors, Jones Lang LaSalle Limited, valued the investment properties owned by the Group as at 31 August 2024 at \$2,529.3 million (2023: \$2,779.4 million by Colliers International (Hong Kong) Limited), using a Level 2 valuation technique being market comparable approach.

### (e) *Investment properties leased out under operating leases*

The Group leases out investment properties under operating leases. The leases typically run for an initial period of 1 to 2 years, with an option to renew the lease after that date at which time all terms are renegotiated. None of the leases includes contingent rentals.

The Group's receivables for total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases at the reporting date are as follows:

	<i>The Group and the Foundation</i>	
	2024	2023
	\$'million	\$'million
Within 1 year	41.5	42.2
After 1 year but within 2 years	15.3	14.3
	<u>56.8</u>	<u>56.5</u>

### (f) *Mortgage of investment properties for uncommitted banking facilities*

The banking facilities of the Group granted by The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited are secured by mortgages over 12 residential investment properties with net book value of \$2.1 million at 31 August 2024 (2023: 12 residential investment properties with net book value of \$3.0 million). The market value of the 12 residential investment properties as at 31 August 2024 based on external valuations was \$164.1 million (2023: \$189.0 million).



## 6 Fixed assets (continued)

### (g) Right-of-use assets

The analysis of the net book value of right-of-use assets by class of underlying asset is as follows:

	Note	The Group		The Foundation	
		31 August 2024 \$'million	31 August 2023 \$'million	31 August 2024 \$'million	31 August 2023 \$'million
Ownership interests in leasehold land and buildings held for own use, carried at depreciated cost in Hong Kong, with remaining lease term of:					
- between 10 and 50 years	(i)	-	-	-	-
Other properties leased for own use, carried at depreciated cost	(ii)	43.9	37.2	20.5	6.5
Plant and equipment, carried at depreciated cost	(iii)	3.1	3.4	1.8	1.6
		<u>47.0</u>	<u>40.6</u>	<u>22.3</u>	<u>8.1</u>
Ownership interests in leasehold investment properties, carried at depreciated cost, with remaining lease term of:					
- 50 years or more		-	-	-	-
- between 10 and 50 years		5.9	6.2	5.9	6.2
		<u>5.9</u>	<u>6.2</u>	<u>5.9</u>	<u>6.2</u>
		<u>52.9</u>	<u>46.8</u>	<u>28.2</u>	<u>14.3</u>

The analysis of expense items in relation to leases recognised in profit or loss is as follows:

	The Group		The Foundation	
	2024 \$'million	2023 \$'million	2024 \$'million	2023 \$'million
Depreciation charge of right-of-use assets by class of underlying asset:				
Ownership interests in leasehold land and buildings	-	-	-	-
Other properties leased for own use	21.0	22.8	9.1	9.7
Plant and equipment	1.2	1.3	0.7	0.8
Ownership interests in leasehold investment property	<u>0.3</u>	<u>0.2</u>	<u>0.3</u>	<u>0.2</u>
	<u>22.5</u>	<u>24.3</u>	<u>10.1</u>	<u>10.7</u>
Interest on lease liabilities (note 4)	2.4	1.2	0.7	0.3
Expense relating to short-term leases	1.6	1.1	-	0.4
Variable lease payments not included in the measurement of lease liabilities	<u>1.1</u>	<u>0.9</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

## 6 Fixed assets (continued)

During the year, additions to right-of-use assets were \$28.5 million (2023: \$23.4 million). This amount primarily related to the capitalised lease payments payable under new tenancy agreements.

Details of total cash outflow for leases and the maturity analysis of lease liabilities are set out in notes 13(d) and 21 respectively.

### (i) Ownership interests in leasehold land and buildings held for own use

The Group holds several Hong Kong residential buildings for own use. The Group is the registered owner of these property interests, including the whole or part of undivided share in the underlying land. Lump sum payments were made upfront to acquire these property interests from their previous registered owners, and there are no ongoing payments to be made under the terms of the land lease, other than payments based on rateable values set by the relevant government authorities. These payments vary from time to time and are payable to the relevant government authorities.

### (ii) Other properties leased for own use

The Group has obtained the right to use other properties as its school premises and offices through tenancy agreements. The leases typically run for an initial period of three to ten years.

Some leases include an option to renew the lease for an additional period after the end of the contract term. Where practicable, the Group seeks to include such extension options exercisable by the Group to provide operational flexibility. The Group assesses at lease commencement date whether it is reasonably certain to exercise the extension options. If the Group is not reasonably certain to exercise the extension options, the future lease payments during the extension periods are not included in the measurement of lease liabilities.

### (iii) Other leases

The Group leases office equipment under leases expiring from one to five years. Some leases include an option to renew the lease when all terms are renegotiated, while some include an option to purchase the leased equipment at the end of the lease term at a price deemed to be a bargain purchase option. None of the leases includes variable lease payments.



## 7 Subsidiaries

### **Accounting policy**

A subsidiary is an entity controlled by the Group. The Group controls an entity when it is exposed, or has rights, to variable returns from its involvement with the entity and has the ability to affect those returns through its power over the entity. When assessing whether the Group has power, only substantive rights (held by the Group and other parties) are considered.

The Group consolidates subsidiaries in the consolidated financial statements from the date that control commences until the date that control ceases. Intra-group balances and transactions and any unrealised profits arising from intra-group transactions are eliminated in full in preparing the consolidated financial statements.

ESL and ESFI, companies incorporated in Hong Kong and limited by guarantee, are controlled subsidiaries of the Group. ESL's principal activities are the operation of a child care centre, kindergartens and private independent schools, the provision of English as an Additional Language (EAL) courses and sports activities for young people. ESFI's principal activity is assets investment. The management expertise and administration of ESL and ESFI are substantially provided by the Foundation.

During the year, the Group set up three companies, namely ESF Holdings (BVI) Limited, ESF Properties Holdings (HK) Limited and ESF Properties Holdings (CHK) Limited for internal restructuring. These companies were dormant at 31 August 2024.

Loan to a subsidiary is unsecured and interest-bearing at the higher of 3 month HIBOR plus 1% and the average external borrowing cost of the Foundation plus 1% per annum. The loan was fully repaid during the year. Expected credit loss was assessed as insignificant at 31 August 2023.

Amounts due from subsidiaries at 31 August 2024 are unsecured, interest-free and have no fixed terms of repayment.

## 8 Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

### **Accounting policy**

Investments in equity securities are recognised/derecognised on the date the Group commits to purchase/sell the investment. The investments are initially stated at fair value plus directly attributable transaction costs, except for those investments measured at fair value through profit or loss ("FVTPL") for which transaction costs are recognised directly in profit or loss. For an explanation of how the Group determines fair value of financial assets, see note 28(f). These investments are subsequently accounted for as follows, depending on their classification.

The Group's financial assets comprise of equity, hedge and fixed income funds. An investment in equity securities is classified as FVTPL unless the equity investment is not held for trading purposes and on initial recognition of the investment the Group makes an election to designate the investment at fair value through other comprehensive income (non-recycling) such that subsequent changes in fair value are recognised in other comprehensive income. Such elections are made on an instrument-by-instrument basis. The Group has not made such an election for any of the financial assets.

## 8 Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss (continued)

	<i>The Group</i>	
	2024 \$'million	2023 \$'million
<b>Financial assets measured at FVTPL</b>		
- Unlisted equity funds	227.1	219.1
- Unlisted hedge funds	171.1	150.1
- Unlisted fixed income funds	138.0	125.8
- Unlisted private investments	51.5	23.2
Total	587.7	518.2

## 9 Retirement schemes

### *Accounting policy*

- (i) The Group recognises as expense obligations for contributions to defined contribution retirement schemes, including contributions payable under the Hong Kong Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Ordinance, as they are incurred.
- (ii) The Group calculates the Group's net obligation in respect of defined benefit retirement schemes separately for each scheme/section by estimating the amount of future benefit that employees have earned in return for their service in the current and prior years; the Group discounts that benefit to determine the present value, and the fair value of any scheme assets is deducted. A qualified actuary performs the calculation using the projected unit credit method. When the calculation results in a benefit to the Group, the Group recognises an asset limited to the present value of economic benefits available in the form of any future refunds from the plan or reductions in future contributions to the plan.

The Group recognises service costs and the net interest expense/(income) on the net defined benefit liability/(asset) in the statement of comprehensive income. The Group measures current service cost as the increase in the present value of the defined benefit obligation resulting from employee service in the current period. When the benefits of a plan are changed, or when a plan is curtailed, the Group recognises the portion of the changed benefit relating to past service by employees, or the gain or loss on curtailment, as an expense in the statement of comprehensive income at the earlier of when the plan amendment or curtailment occurs and when related restructuring costs or termination benefits are recognised. The Group determines net interest expense/(income) for the period by applying the discount rate used to measure the defined benefit obligation at the beginning of the year to the net defined benefit liability/(asset). The discount rate is the yield at the end of the reporting period on high quality corporate bonds that have maturity dates approximating the terms of the Group's obligations.

The Group recognises remeasurements arising from defined benefit retirement plans in other comprehensive income. Remeasurements comprise actuarial gains and losses, the return on plan assets (excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability/(asset)) and any change in the effect of the asset ceiling (excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability/(asset)).



## 9 Retirement schemes (continued)

**(a) During the year, the Group operated a defined benefit employee retirement scheme for staff:**

The Non-Teaching Staff Superannuation Scheme includes two sections, the Non-Teaching Staff Section (the "NT" Section) and the Terminal Award Section (the "TA" Section). Eligible staff of the NT Section and the TA Section are non-teaching staff employed before 19 January 2000 under the conditions of service applicable before that date and teaching and senior staff employed before 1 September 1988, respectively. Assets and liabilities attributable to one benefit section shall be kept separate and distinct from assets and liabilities attributable to any other benefit section. The last member of the TA Section retired on 31 August 2023 and the balance of the related scheme assets was redeemed after the termination of the section in 2024.

**(b) Defined benefit retirement scheme**

**(i) The amount recognised in the statement of financial position is as follows:**

	<i>The Group and the Foundation</i>	
	2024	2023
	\$'million	\$'million
Present value of defined benefit obligations	(27.5)	(34.3)
Fair value of scheme assets	41.7	74.3
	<u>14.2</u>	<u>40.0</u>

The Group expects that a portion of the above defined benefit retirement schemes assets will be recovered within one year. However, it is not practicable to segregate this amount from the amounts recoverable in later periods, as future contributions will relate to future services rendered and future changes in actuarial assumptions and market conditions. Accordingly, the Group has recorded the assets as non-current assets.

The Group does not expect to make any contribution to the schemes in the year ending 31 August 2025.

**(ii) Assets for the TA Section and the NT Section are managed separately and consist of the following:**

	<i>The Group and the Foundation</i>			
	<i>TA Section</i>		<i>NT Section</i>	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	\$'million	\$'million	\$'million	\$'million
Equities	-	10.6	17.3	17.0
Fixed income securities	-	15.4	23.3	27.8
Cash	-	1.1	1.1	2.4
	<u>-</u>	<u>27.1</u>	<u>41.7</u>	<u>47.2</u>
Total	-	27.1	41.7	47.2

## 9 Retirement schemes (continued)

(iii) Movements in the present value of defined benefit obligations were as follows:

	<i>The Group and the Foundation</i>	
	2024	2023
	\$'million	\$'million
At the beginning of the year	(34.3)	(36.2)
Remeasurements:		
- Actuarial gain/(loss) arising from changes in experience	0.2	(0.3)
- Actuarial (loss)/gain arising from changes in financial assumptions	(0.3)	0.1
	(0.1)	(0.2)
Current service cost	(1.2)	(1.3)
Interest cost	(1.3)	(1.1)
Less: actual benefits paid and payable	9.4	4.5
At the end of the year	(27.5)	(34.3)

(iv) Movements in the fair value of scheme assets were as follows:

	<i>The Group and the Foundation</i>	
	2024	2023
	\$'million	\$'million
At the beginning of the year	74.3	77.1
Interest income	1.7	2.4
Gain/(loss) on scheme assets excluding interest income	2.6	(0.2)
Less: actual benefits paid and payable	(9.4)	(4.5)
Less: administrative expenses paid from scheme assets	(0.4)	(0.5)
Less: redemption after the termination of the TA section	(27.1)	-
At the end of the year	41.7	74.3

## 9 Retirement schemes (continued)

- (v) Expense/(income) recognised in the statement of comprehensive income is as follows:

	<i>The Group and the Foundation</i>	
	2024 \$'million	2023 \$'million
Current service cost	1.2	1.3
Net interest on net defined benefit asset	(0.4)	(1.3)
Administrative expenses paid from scheme assets	0.4	0.5
Total amounts recognised in income and expenditure	1.2	0.5
Actuarial loss	0.1	0.2
(Gain)/loss on scheme assets excluding interest income	(2.6)	0.2
Total amounts recognised in other comprehensive income	(2.5)	0.4
Total defined benefit (income)/cost	(1.3)	0.9

The Group includes the current service cost, net interest on net defined benefit asset and administrative expenses paid from scheme assets under gratuities and allowances in the statement of comprehensive income.

- (vi) Significant actuarial assumptions and sensitivity analysis are as follows:

	<i>The Group and the Foundation</i>			
	<i>TA Section</i>		<i>NT Section</i>	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
Discount rate (Note)	0%	0%	2.8%	3.6%
Future salary increases (Note)	0%	0%	3.0%	3.5%

The below analysis shows how the defined benefit obligation as at 31 August 2024 and 2023 would have increased/(decreased) as a result of a 0.10% change in the significant actuarial assumptions:

	<i>The Group and the Foundation</i>			
	<i>TA Section</i>		<i>NT Section</i>	
	<i>Increase of 0.10%</i>	<i>Decrease of 0.10%</i>	<i>Increase of 0.10%</i>	<i>Decrease of 0.10%</i>
	\$'million	\$'million	\$'million	\$'million
Discount rate (Note)	-	-	(0.1)	0.1
Future salary increases (Note)	-	-	0.1	(0.1)



## 9 Retirement schemes (continued)

	2023			
	<i>The Group and the Foundation</i>			
	<i>TA Section</i>		<i>NT Section</i>	
	<i>Increase of 0.10% \$'million</i>	<i>Decrease of 0.10% \$'million</i>	<i>Increase of 0.10% \$'million</i>	<i>Decrease of 0.10% \$'million</i>
Discount rate (Note)	-	-	(0.1)	0.1
Future salary increases (Note)	-	-	0.1	(0.1)

Note: Since there is no member in the TA Section, no actuarial assumptions are set and there is no defined benefit obligation as at 31 August 2024 and 31 August 2023.

The above sensitivity analysis is based on the assumption that changes in actuarial assumptions are not correlated and therefore it does not take into account the correlations between the actuarial assumptions.

## 10 Current assets and current liabilities

With the exception of the Group's and the Foundation's deposits given for the rental of properties and utilities of \$14.9 million (2023: \$14.5 million) and \$8.5 million (2023: \$9.1 million) respectively, the Group's other accruals of \$6.4 million (2023: \$6.2 million) and the Group's and the Foundation's deferred income (included in accounts payables and accruals) of \$6.3 million (2023: \$6.3 million) and \$103.6 million (2023: \$99.3 million) respectively, the Group expects all other current assets and liabilities to be recovered, settled or recognised as income or expense within one year from the end of the reporting period.

## 11 Fees and other receivables

### *Accounting policy*

A receivable is recognised when the Group has an unconditional right to receive consideration. A right to receive consideration is unconditional if only the passage of time is required before payment of that consideration is due. The Group states these receivables at amortised cost using the effective interest method and including allowance for credit losses. Where the receivables are interest-free loans made to related parties without any fixed repayment terms or the effect of discounting would be immaterial, the Group states the receivables at cost and including allowance for credit losses.

	<i>The Group</i>		<i>The Foundation</i>	
	<i>2024 \$'million</i>	<i>2023 \$'million</i>	<i>2024 \$'million</i>	<i>2023 \$'million</i>
Fees receivables	16.6	22.8	14.2	18.1
Other receivables	8.2	6.8	7.8	4.8
Less: Allowance for credit losses	(3.7)	(7.1)	(2.8)	(4.3)
	<u>21.1</u>	<u>22.5</u>	<u>19.2</u>	<u>18.6</u>



## 11 Fees and other receivables (continued)

### *Impairment of fees receivables*

Fees receivables are due immediately from the date of billing. The Group and the Foundation recognises an impairment gain or loss for fees and other receivables with a corresponding adjustment to their carrying amount through a loss allowance account, unless the Group and the Foundation are satisfied that there is no realistic prospect of recovery, in which case the impairment loss is written off against the gross carrying amount of receivables directly.

The Group and the Foundation measure loss allowances for fees receivables at an amount equal to lifetime expected credit losses ("ECLs"), which are calculated using a provision matrix. As the Group's historical credit loss experience does not indicate significantly different loss patterns for different customer segments, the loss allowance based on past due status is not further distinguished between the Group's different customer bases. Any change in the ECLs amount is recognised as an impairment gain or loss in profit or loss.

The movement in the allowance for credit losses during the year was as follows:

	<i>The Group</i>		<i>The Foundation</i>	
	2024 \$million	2023 \$million	2024 \$million	2023 \$million
At the beginning of the year	7.1	9.1	4.3	5.7
Impairment loss recognised	2.7	0.9	1.8	0.5
Uncollectible amounts written off	(6.1)	(2.9)	(3.3)	(1.9)
At the end of the year	<u>3.7</u>	<u>7.1</u>	<u>2.8</u>	<u>4.3</u>

At 31 August 2024, the Group and the Foundation's allowance for credit losses in respect of fees receivables amounted to \$3.7 million (2023: \$7.1 million) and \$2.8 million (2023: \$4.3 million) respectively. The Group and the Foundation do not hold any collateral over these balances.

## 12 Restricted cash

The Group pledged a deposit of \$3.1 million (2023: \$3.1 million) to a bank for guarantees issued by that bank in favour of MTR Corporation Limited, Hoo Wah Company Limited and Wellion Limited under the terms of three separate tenancy agreements.

## 13 Cash and cash equivalents

### **Accounting policy**

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and on hand and demand deposits with banks and other financial institutions, having been within three months of maturity at acquisition.

Bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the Group's cash management are also included as a component of cash and cash equivalents for the purpose of the cash flow statement.

### **(a) Cash and cash equivalents comprise:**

	<i>The Group</i>		<i>The Foundation</i>	
	2024 \$'million	2023 \$'million	2024 \$'million	2023 \$'million
Deposits with original maturities less than three months	170.0	82.3	70.0	82.0
Cash at bank and in hand	445.2	462.2	90.5	91.8
	<u>615.2</u>	<u>544.5</u>	<u>160.5</u>	<u>173.8</u>

The effective interest rates per annum relating to cash and cash equivalents of the Group and the Foundation at the end of reporting period are 1.10% (2023: 0.68%) and 1.64% (2023: 2.09%) respectively.

## 13 Cash and cash equivalents (continued)

### (b) Reconciliation of surplus for the year to cash generated from operating activities:

	<i>The Group</i>		<i>The Foundation</i>	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	\$'million	\$'million	\$'million	\$'million
<b>Operating activities</b>				
Surplus before income tax	344.5	252.9	208.5	164.1
Adjustments for:				
Interest income	(89.7)	(48.9)	(76.5)	(39.1)
Nomination rights	(43.7)	(47.3)	(30.4)	(33.0)
Non-refundable building/capital levy	(73.3)	(73.3)	(52.4)	(52.7)
Interest on lease liabilities	2.4	1.2	0.7	0.3
Net movement in realised gains on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	(6.0)	(7.5)	-	-
Net movement in unrealised gains on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	(66.0)	(36.3)	-	-
Losses on disposals of fixed assets	0.9	8.3	0.9	6.9
Depreciation	261.3	264.1	218.5	219.7
Expenses recognised under defined benefit retirement schemes	1.2	0.5	1.2	0.5
	331.6	313.7	270.5	266.7
Changes in working capital:				
Decrease in defined benefit retirement scheme	27.1	-	27.1	-
(Increase)/decrease in inventories	(0.3)	0.2	-	-
(Increase)/decrease in rental and utility deposits	(0.4)	(0.1)	0.6	-
Increase in prepayments	(3.1)	(6.1)	(2.3)	(5.0)
Decrease in loans to staff	0.5	2.2	0.5	0.8
(Increase)/decrease in fees and other receivables	(0.2)	3.5	(0.9)	1.3
Decrease in government grant receivable	-	2.4	-	2.4
Decrease in fees received in advance	(2.2)	(3.7)	(4.1)	(3.0)
Increase in net amount due from subsidiaries	-	-	(3.2)	(4.8)
Increase in provision to meet staff conditions of service	1.7	24.1	1.9	18.0
Increase in accounts payables and accruals excluding capital creditors	9.6	21.8	22.7	37.9
Increase/(decrease) in scholarship fund and hardship allowance	18.1	5.8	9.6	(1.3)
<b>Net cash generated from operating activities</b>	<b>382.4</b>	<b>363.8</b>	<b>322.4</b>	<b>313.0</b>



### 13 Cash and cash equivalents (continued)

#### (c) Reconciliation of liabilities arising from financing activities:

The table below details changes in the Group's and Foundation's liabilities from financing activities, including both cash and non-cash changes. Liabilities arising from financing activities are liabilities for which cash flows were, or future cash flows will be, classified in the cash flow statement as cash flows from financing activities.

#### The Group

At 1 September 2023

#### Changes from financing cash flows:

Decrease in refundable capital levy  
Proceeds from issue of nomination rights  
Proceeds from non-refundable building levy  
Proceeds from non-refundable capital levy  
Proceeds from issuance of debenture  
Refund/transfer of debenture  
Capital element of lease rentals paid  
Interest element of lease rentals paid  
Total changes from financing cash flows

#### Other changes:

Individual nomination rights income  
Amortisation of corporate nomination rights  
Non-refundable building levy income  
Non-refundable capital levy income  
Increase in lease liabilities from entering new lease during the year  
Interest on lease liabilities (note 4)

Total other changes

At 31 August 2024

	Refundable capital levy \$'million (Note 22)	Nomination rights received in advance \$'million (Note 15)	Individual nomination rights \$'million (Note 15)	Corporate nomination rights \$'million (Note 26)	Non-refundable building levy \$'million (Note 24)	Non-refundable capital levy \$'million (Note 25)	Debenture \$'million (Note 23)	Lease liabilities \$'million (Note 21)	Total \$'million
At 1 September 2023	43.3	4.2	245.1	29.2	51.6	289.7	77.8	41.2	782.1
Changes from financing cash flows:									
Decrease in refundable capital levy	(12.5)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(12.5)
Proceeds from issue of nomination rights	-	(0.5)	21.1	2.5	-	-	-	-	23.1
Proceeds from non-refundable building levy	-	-	-	-	21.1	-	-	-	21.1
Proceeds from non-refundable capital levy	-	-	-	-	-	58.3	-	-	58.3
Proceeds from issuance of debenture	-	-	-	-	-	-	29.5	-	29.5
Refund/transfer of debenture	-	-	29.3	-	-	-	(38.4)	-	(9.1)
Capital element of lease rentals paid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(22.0)	(22.0)
Interest element of lease rentals paid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(2.4)	(2.4)
Total changes from financing cash flows	(12.5)	(0.5)	50.4	2.5	21.1	58.3	(8.9)	(24.4)	86.0
Other changes:									
Individual nomination rights income	-	-	(42.1)	-	-	-	-	-	(42.1)
Amortisation of corporate nomination rights	-	-	-	(1.6)	-	-	-	-	(1.6)
Non-refundable building levy income	-	-	-	-	(20.9)	-	-	-	(20.9)
Non-refundable capital levy income	-	-	-	-	-	(52.4)	-	-	(52.4)
Increase in lease liabilities from entering new lease during the year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28.5	28.5
Interest on lease liabilities (note 4)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.4	2.4
Total other changes	-	-	(42.1)	(1.6)	(20.9)	(52.4)	-	30.9	(86.1)
At 31 August 2024	30.8	3.7	253.4	30.1	51.8	295.6	68.9	47.7	782.0



## 13 Cash and cash equivalents (continued)

### The Group

	Refundable capital levy \$'million (Note 22)	Nomination rights received in advance \$'million (Note 15)	Individual nomination rights \$'million (Note 15)	Corporate nomination rights \$'million (Note 26)	Non-refundable building levy \$'million (Note 24)	Non-refundable capital levy \$'million (Note 25)	Debenture \$'million (Note 23)	Lease liabilities \$'million (Note 21)	Total \$'million
<b>At 1 September 2022</b>	59.0	7.4	228.3	34.6	50.9	276.3	95.2	42.5	794.2
<b>Changes from financing cash flows:</b>									
Decrease in refundable capital levy	(15.7)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(15.7)
Proceeds from issue of nomination rights	-	(3.2)	20.4	(2.5)	-	-	-	-	14.7
Proceeds from non-refundable building levy	-	-	-	-	21.3	-	-	-	21.3
Proceeds from non-refundable capital levy	-	-	-	-	-	66.1	-	-	66.1
Proceeds from issuance of debenture	-	-	-	-	-	-	36.2	-	36.2
Refund/transfer of debenture	-	-	40.8	-	-	-	(53.6)	-	(12.8)
Capital element of lease rentals paid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(24.7)	(24.7)
Interest element of lease rentals paid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1.2)	(1.2)
<b>Total changes from financing cash flows</b>	(15.7)	(3.2)	61.2	(2.5)	21.3	66.1	(17.4)	(25.9)	83.9
<b>Other changes:</b>									
Individual nomination rights income	-	-	(44.4)	-	-	-	-	-	(44.4)
Amortisation of corporate nomination rights	-	-	-	(2.9)	-	-	-	-	(2.9)
Non-refundable building levy income	-	-	-	-	(20.6)	(52.7)	-	-	(20.6)
Non-refundable capital levy income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(52.7)
Increase in lease liabilities from entering new lease during the year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23.4	23.4
Interest on lease liabilities (note 4)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.2	1.2
<b>Total other changes</b>	-	-	(44.4)	(2.9)	(20.6)	(52.7)	-	24.6	(96.0)
<b>At 31 August 2023</b>	43.3	4.2	245.1	29.2	51.6	289.7	77.8	41.2	782.1

### 13 Cash and cash equivalents (continued)

#### The Foundation

	Refundable capital levy \$'million (Note 22)	Nomination rights received in advance \$'million (Note 15)	Individual nomination rights \$'million (Note 15)	Corporate nomination rights \$'million (Note 26)	Non- refundable capital levy \$'million (Note 25)	Lease liabilities \$'million (Note 21)	Total \$'million
<b>At 1 September 2023</b>	43.3	3.7	160.4	29.2	289.7	7.3	533.6
<b>Changes from financing cash flows:</b>							
Decrease in refundable capital levy	(12.5)	-	-	-	-	-	(12.5)
Proceeds from issue of nomination rights	-	(0.3)	31.8	2.5	-	-	34.0
Proceeds from non-refundable capital levy	-	-	-	-	58.3	-	58.3
Capital element of lease rentals paid	-	-	-	-	-	(9.4)	(9.4)
Interest element of lease rentals paid	-	-	-	-	-	(0.7)	(0.7)
<b>Total changes from financing cash flows</b>	<b>(12.5)</b>	<b>(0.3)</b>	<b>31.8</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>58.3</b>	<b>(10.1)</b>	<b>69.7</b>
<b>Other changes:</b>							
Individual nomination rights income	-	-	(28.8)	-	-	-	(28.8)
Amortisation of corporate nomination rights	-	-	-	(1.6)	-	-	(1.6)
Non-refundable capital levy income	-	-	-	-	(52.4)	-	(52.4)
Increase in lease liabilities from entering new lease during the year	-	-	-	-	-	24.0	24.0
Interest on lease liabilities (note 4)	-	-	-	-	-	0.7	0.7
<b>Total other changes</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(28.8)</b>	<b>(1.6)</b>	<b>(52.4)</b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>(58.1)</b>
<b>At 31 August 2024</b>	<b>30.8</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>163.4</b>	<b>30.1</b>	<b>295.6</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>545.2</b>

### 13 Cash and cash equivalents (continued)

#### The Foundation

	Refundable capital levy \$'million (Note 22)	Nomination rights received in advance \$'million (Note 15)	Individual nomination rights \$'million (Note 15)	Corporate nomination rights \$'million (Note 26)	Non- refundable capital levy \$'million (Note 25)	Lease liabilities \$'million (Note 21)	Total \$'million
<b>At 1 September 2022</b>	59.0	6.9	149.5	34.6	276.3	16.6	542.9
<b>Changes from financing cash flows:</b>							
Decrease in refundable capital levy	(15.7)	-	-	-	-	-	(15.7)
Proceeds from issue of nomination rights	-	(3.2)	41.0	(2.5)	-	-	35.3
Proceeds from non-refundable capital levy	-	-	-	-	66.1	-	66.1
Capital element of lease rentals paid	-	-	-	-	-	(10.6)	(10.6)
Interest element of lease rentals paid	-	-	-	-	-	(0.3)	(0.3)
<b>Total changes from financing cash flows</b>	<b>(15.7)</b>	<b>(3.2)</b>	<b>41.0</b>	<b>(2.5)</b>	<b>66.1</b>	<b>(10.9)</b>	<b>74.8</b>
<b>Other changes:</b>							
Individual nomination rights income	-	-	(30.1)	-	-	-	(30.1)
Amortisation of corporate nomination rights	-	-	-	(2.9)	-	-	(2.9)
Non-refundable capital levy income	-	-	-	-	(52.7)	-	(52.7)
Increase in lease liabilities from entering new lease during the year	-	-	-	-	-	1.3	1.3
Interest on lease liabilities (note 4)	-	-	-	-	-	0.3	0.3
<b>Total other changes</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(30.1)</b>	<b>(2.9)</b>	<b>(52.7)</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>(84.1)</b>
<b>At 31 August 2023</b>	<b>43.3</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>160.4</b>	<b>29.2</b>	<b>289.7</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>533.6</b>



### 13 Cash and cash equivalents (continued)

#### (d) Total cash outflow for leases

Amounts included in the cash flow statement for leases comprise the following:

	<i>The Group</i>		<i>The Foundation</i>	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	\$'million	\$'million	\$'million	\$'million
Within operating cash flows	2.7	2.0	-	0.4
Within financing cash flows	24.4	25.9	10.1	10.9
	<u>27.1</u>	<u>27.9</u>	<u>10.1</u>	<u>11.3</u>

### 14 Fees received in advance

Fees received in advance are contract liabilities in nature under HKFRS 15 and are recognised when non-refundable fee consideration is received before the Group recognises the related revenue (see note 2). In cases where the Group has an unconditional right to receive non-refundable consideration before the Group recognises the related revenue, a corresponding receivable is also recognised.

Movements in fees received in advance were as follows:

	<i>The Group</i> \$'million	<i>The Foundation</i> \$'million
Balance at 1 September 2022	167.6	81.8
Decrease as a result of recognising revenue during the year in respect of fees received in advance at the beginning of the year	(85.8)	(68.1)
Increase as a result of receipts in advance of service as at the year end date	<u>82.1</u>	<u>65.1</u>
Balance at 31 August 2023 and 1 September 2023	163.9	78.8
Decrease as a result of recognising revenue during the year in respect of fees received in advance at the beginning of the year	(142.6)	(57.5)
Increase as a result of receipts in advance of service as at the year end date	<u>140.4</u>	<u>53.4</u>
Balance at 31 August 2024	<u>161.7</u>	<u>74.7</u>

All fees received in advance are expected to be recognised as revenue within one year from the end of the reporting period.

## 15 Individual nomination rights

Individual nomination rights are a means to gain priority on the waiting list and a school place subject to successful assessment. The amount received is not refundable after the student accepts a school place offer.

The Group recognises deposits received in respect of individual nomination rights as receipts in advance and recognises revenue in equal instalments over the student's expected school life or at the time when the student leaves the school(s) within the Group. Amounts received but not yet recognised as revenue are recorded as deferred income - individual nomination rights. Movements in individual nomination rights were as follows:

	<i>The Group</i>		<i>The Foundation</i>	
	2024 \$'million	2023 \$'million	2024 \$'million	2023 \$'million
At the beginning of the year	245.1	228.3	160.4	149.5
Decrease as a result of recognising revenue during the year that was included in deferred income at the beginning of the year	(40.7)	(40.6)	(27.6)	(26.6)
Increase as a result of receipts in advance of service to be rendered as at the end of the year	49.0	57.4	30.6	37.5
At the end of the year	253.4	245.1	163.4	160.4
Less: to be recognised within one year	(32.9)	(31.8)	(21.7)	(21.6)
After one year	220.5	213.3	141.7	138.8

## 16 Provision to meet staff conditions of service

### *Accounting policy*

The Group accrues salaries, gratuities, paid annual leave, leave passage and the cost to the Group of non-monetary benefits in the year in which the associated services are rendered by employees of the Group. Where payment or settlement is deferred and the effect would be material, the Group states these amounts at their present values.

Movements in the provision to meet staff conditions of service were as follows:

	<i>The Group</i>		<i>The Foundation</i>	
	2024 \$'million	2023 \$'million	2024 \$'million	2023 \$'million
At the beginning of the year	148.4	124.3	115.6	97.6
Provision for the year	312.3	296.6	230.8	217.7
Payments made during the year	(310.6)	(272.5)	(228.9)	(199.7)
At the end of the year	150.1	148.4	117.5	115.6

## 17 Accounts payables and accruals

### Accounting policy

Initially the Group recognises accounts and other payables at fair value. Subsequent to initial recognition, the Group states these at amortised cost unless the effect of discounting would be immaterial, in which case they are stated at invoice amounts.

	<i>The Group</i>		<i>The Foundation</i>	
	2024 \$'million	2023 \$'million	2024 \$'million	2023 \$'million
Accounts payable	51.2	33.2	27.6	18.2
Provisions and other accruals	54.4	128.7	32.5	95.7
Accruals for major repairs	112.2	106.3	112.2	106.3
Deferred income	50.6	40.0	137.0	126.2
Retention money	4.2	28.8	4.2	28.8
Deposits received	14.0	13.5	13.9	13.4
Other payables	45.5	48.4	39.4	42.4
	<u>332.1</u>	<u>398.9</u>	<u>366.8</u>	<u>431.0</u>

## 18 Income tax in the statement of financial position

Tax payable in the statement of financial position represents:

	<i>The Group and the Foundation</i>	
	2024 \$'million	2023 \$'million
Provision for Hong Kong Profits Tax for the year	6.5	3.7
Balance of Profits Tax provision relating to prior years	3.7	-
	<u>10.2</u>	<u>3.7</u>

## 19 Government grants

### Accounting policy

The Group recognises government grants when there is reasonable assurance that the Group will comply with the conditions attached to them and that the grants will be received. The Group recognises grants relating to expenditure on a systematic basis in the same year in which the related expenditure is incurred. The Group deducts grants provided to the Group relating to fixed assets from the cost of acquisition in arriving at the carrying amount of the related asset.



## 19 Government grants (continued)

The Government provides basic grants and hardship allowance to the Foundation. The total grants received by the Group and the Foundation were as follows:

	Note	<i>The Group</i>		<i>The Foundation</i>	
		2024 \$'million	2023 \$'million	2024 \$'million	2023 \$'million
Basic/relief grants	19(a)	129.0	150.2	129.0	150.2
Hardship allowance	20	3.6	4.2	3.6	4.2
Refund of rent and rates	19(b)	16.5	16.4	13.1	13.0
		<u>149.1</u>	<u>170.8</u>	<u>145.7</u>	<u>167.4</u>

The subvention review was concluded in July 2013. Excluding subvention of \$28.3 million for students with special education needs in the Foundation's mainstream schools and the Jockey Club Sarah Roe School, the basic grants and hardship allowance (collectively the "Subvention") are phasing out in 13 years starting from the 2016/17 school year until the 2028/29 school year. The phase out amount in each year will vary and range from approximately \$17 million to \$22 million according to the Subvention provided to each year group of the Foundation's mainstream schools. All existing students of the Foundation except Year 1 to Year 9 will continue to benefit from the Subvention, frozen at its current level, until they either graduate from the schools in Year 13 or leave the system. The phasing out of the Subvention affects children entering Year 1 of the Foundation's schools in August 2016 and thereafter.

### (a) Basic/relief grants

The Government's basic recurrent grant is a grant per class calculated to be equivalent to the grant allowed for each class provided to other schools in the public-aided education sector in 1999/2000. Since 1999/2000, the basic recurrent grant has been reduced by 12.372% in various stages through to 31 March 2007. The cumulative deduction in the basic grant resulting from the subvention phase-out amounted to \$142.1 million as at 31 August 2024 (2023: \$120.9 million).

### (b) Refund of rent and rates

The Group and the Foundation also receive from the Government a reimbursement of rent and rates paid for school premises. The charge for rent and rates, which is included in other operating expenses, was arrived at as follows:

	Note	<i>The Group</i>		<i>The Foundation</i>	
		2024 \$'million	2023 \$'million	2024 \$'million	2023 \$'million
Gross rent and rates for the year		18.1	18.3	13.7	14.0
Less: Recovered or recoverable from the Government		<u>(16.5)</u>	<u>(16.4)</u>	<u>(13.1)</u>	<u>(13.0)</u>
	4	<u>1.6</u>	<u>1.9</u>	<u>0.6</u>	<u>1.0</u>

## 20 Scholarship fund and hardship allowance

### (a) The Group

	Scholarship fund \$'million	Hardship allowance \$'million	Total \$'million
At 1 September 2022	15.3	47.4	62.7
Received from the Government	-	4.2	4.2
Provision for the year	44.4	15.7	60.1
Utilisation	(43.0)	(15.5)	(58.5)
At 31 August 2023 and 1 September 2023	16.7	51.8	68.5
Received from the Government	-	3.6	3.6
Provision for the year	57.5	18.2	75.7
Utilisation	(43.7)	(17.5)	(61.2)
At 31 August 2024	30.5	56.1	86.6

The Group includes the amount utilised to permit fee relief during the year in income as a component of tuition fees.

The Group transfers previous years' hardship allowance surplus to the statement of comprehensive income to fund part of the expenses.

### (b) The Foundation

	Scholarship fund \$'million	Hardship allowance \$'million	Total \$'million
At 1 September 2022	-	37.4	37.4
Received from the Government	-	4.2	4.2
Provision for the year	-	7.3	7.3
Utilisation	-	(12.8)	(12.8)
At 31 August 2023 and 1 September 2023	-	36.1	36.1
Received from the Government	-	3.6	3.6
Provision for the year	10.0	9.2	19.2
Utilisation	-	(13.2)	(13.2)
At 31 August 2024	10.0	35.7	45.7

The Foundation includes the amount utilised to permit fee relief during the year in income as a component of tuition fees.



## 20 Scholarship fund and hardship allowance (continued)

- (c) Besides the basic grants detailed in note 19, the Government also provides an allowance for the relief of hardship based upon a percentage of the recurrent grant per class to the Foundation. In addition, starting from 1 September 2016, the Foundation sets aside 0.8% of tuition fees of non-subsidized students as hardship allowance to support families who experience financial hardship due to a sudden and unexpected change in circumstances. The Foundation set aside \$10.0 million to setup a scholarship fund for senior students during the year. The funding requirement will be reviewed from time to time.
- (d) Pursuant to the service agreement between ESL and the Government, ESL shall set aside a sum, which shall not be less than 10% of its total school fee income from its Private Independent Schools, to provide scholarships and other financial assistance for deserving students at such schools in each school year. During the year ended 31 August 2024, Renaissance College and Discovery College have each set aside 10% (2023: 10%) of their respective tuition fees which consists of 8% (2023: 8%) for Renaissance College and 9% (2023: 9%) for Discovery College as scholarship fund and 2% (2023: 2%) for Renaissance College and 1% (2023: 1%) for Discovery College as hardship allowance.

Tuition fees of Renaissance College and Discovery College transferred to scholarship fund/hardship allowance during the year amounted to \$33.3 million (2023: \$31.2 million) and \$23.2 million (2023: \$21.6 million) respectively.

## 21 Lease liabilities

The following table shows the remaining contractual maturities of the Group's lease liabilities at the end of the current and previous reporting periods:

The Group

	31 August 2024			31 August 2023		
	Present value of the minimum lease payments \$'million	Interest expense relating to future periods \$'million	Total minimum lease payments \$'million	Present value of the minimum lease payments \$'million	Interest expense relating to future periods \$'million	Total minimum lease payments \$'million
Within one year	17.3	2.7	20.0	18.9	1.7	20.6
After one year but within two years	17.2	1.6	18.8	8.3	1.1	9.4
After two years but within five years	9.4	1.2	10.6	9.6	1.5	11.1
After five years	3.8	0.6	4.4	4.4	0.9	5.3
	30.4	3.4	33.8	22.3	3.5	25.8
	47.7	6.1	53.8	41.2	5.2	46.4



## 21 Lease liabilities (continued)

The Foundation

	31 August 2024			31 August 2023		
	Present value of the minimum lease payments \$'million	Interest expense relating to future periods \$'million	Total minimum lease payments \$'million	Present value of the minimum lease payments \$'million	Interest expense relating to future periods \$'million	Total minimum lease payments \$'million
Within one year	8.1	1.1	9.2	6.3	0.1	6.4
After one year but within two years	8.3	0.6	8.9	0.4	-	0.4
After two years but within five years	5.5	0.2	5.7	0.6	0.1	0.7
	13.8	0.8	14.6	1.0	0.1	1.1
	21.9	1.9	23.8	7.3	0.2	7.5

## 22 Refundable capital levy

Refundable capital levy was introduced and payable by the parents of children joining the Foundation's school system from August 2011 to June 2015. After the introduction of non-refundable capital levy (see note 25), the refundable capital levy is only applicable to children that join Year 7 from another school of the Foundation if their parents did not pay refundable capital levy or non-refundable capital levy for them before. The levy is \$25,000 per child. Certain concessions are granted to families with more than two children studying at ESF schools and teachers who are also parents of students studying at ESF schools.

Refundable capital levy is repayable by the Group when the student leaves the school. The refundable capital levy is non-transferable, interest-free, non-depreciating and unsecured. Initially the Group recognises the refundable capital levy at fair value. Subsequently, the Group states this at amortised cost unless the effect of discounting would be immaterial, in which case it is stated at cost.

## 23 Debenture

Class A debenture

In September 2019, the Group introduced the Class A debenture as a means to gain priority interview at a kindergarten. Purchase of the debenture is optional and is payable at the time of application to the kindergarten. The debenture has a nominal value of \$500,000. When a student holding the debenture graduates from the kindergarten and gains a Year 1 place of a Foundation school, Renaissance College or Discovery College, the debenture will be converted into an Individual Nomination Right under the Group.

Class A debenture is repayable in full if a child is not successful at the kindergarten interview, withdraws from the kindergarten before graduation from K2, or does not subsequently takes up a kindergarten or Year 1 place under the Group.

## 23 Debenture (continued)

### Class B debenture

In August 2013, the Group introduced a debenture which is payable by parents of children joining the Group's kindergartens in August 2013 and subsequent years. The debenture is \$7,000 (2023: \$7,000) for each child entering one of the kindergartens for the first time from August 2013 onwards. This debenture has been renamed "Class B debenture" with effect from September 2019.

A Class A debenture holder whose child is successful at the interview and subsequently takes up a kindergarten place does not need to purchase a Class B debenture.

Class B debenture is repayable when the student leaves the school with sufficient notice.

Both Class A and Class B debentures are non-transferable, interest-free, non-depreciating and unsecured. Initially the Group recognises the debentures at fair value, thereafter the Group states this at amortised cost unless the effect of discounting would be immaterial, in which case it is stated at cost.

At 31 August, the analysis of the carrying amount of debenture is as follow:

	<i>The Group</i>	
	2024 \$'million	2023 \$'million
Class A debenture	58.3	66.7
Class B debenture	10.6	11.1
Total debenture	68.9	77.8
Less: to be transferred to individual nomination right or repayable within one year	(32.5)	(40.6)
Repayable after one year	36.4	37.2

## 24 Non-refundable building levy

The Group charges non-refundable building levy to finance capital expenditures of Renaissance College and Discovery College. In the case of Renaissance College, the levy is charged as a one-time payment upon a student's acceptance of a school place. The levy is set at \$50,000 (2023: \$50,000) for Year 1 entrants with pro-rated amounts set for Year 2 to Year 12 new entrants. For Discovery College students, the levy is collected on an annual basis at \$7,530 (2023: \$7,530) per annum for all students.

The Group recognises non-refundable building levy over the number of years individual students are expected to remain at the school.



## 24 Non-refundable building levy (continued)

Movements in non-refundable building levy were as follows:

	<i>The Group</i>	
	2024	2023
	\$'million	\$'million
At the beginning of the year	51.6	50.9
Decrease as a result of recognising revenue during the year that was included in deferred income at the beginning of the year	(9.8)	(10.3)
Increase as a result of receipts in advance of service during the year	10.0	11.0
At the end of the year	51.8	51.6
Less: to be recognised within one year	(8.0)	(7.8)
After one year	43.8	43.8

## 25 Non-refundable capital levy

The Group charges non-refundable capital levy to finance capital expenditures of various capital projects of the ESF schools. The levy is charged as a one-time payment upon a student's acceptance of a school place. The levy is set at \$38,000 (2023: \$38,000) for Year 1 entrants with pro-rated amounts set for Year 2 to Year 13 new entrants.

The Group recognises non-refundable capital levy over the number of years individual students are expected to remain at the school.

Movements in non-refundable capital levy were as follows:

	<i>The Group and the Foundation</i>	
	2024	2023
	\$'million	\$'million
At the beginning of the year	289.7	276.3
Decrease as a result of recognising revenue during the year that was included in deferred income at the beginning of the year	(52.4)	(52.7)
Increase as a result of receipts in advance of service during the year	58.3	66.1
At the end of the year	295.6	289.7
Less: to be recognised within one year	(33.3)	(31.2)
After one year	262.3	258.5



## 26 Corporate nomination rights

### *Accounting policy*

The corporate nomination rights ("CNR") scheme entitles the holder of the CNR (the "Holder") to identify one nominee in relation to any CNR at any time according to the terms and conditions of the CNR. The CNR is non-transferrable, interest-free, depreciating and unsecured.

The Group recognises receipt of cash made in respect of CNR as liabilities and amortises the amount to income for 20 years from the time when the holder of the CNR notifies the Group of the first nominee under the terms and conditions of the corporate nomination rights scheme.

The Holder may redeem a CNR at any date following 10 years after the first nomination date for that CNR. The redeemable amount is the remaining value of that CNR at the date of redemption. Initially the Group recognises the CNR at fair value. Subsequently the Group states this at the applicable redemption value unless the effect of discounting would be immaterial, in which case it is stated at cost with accumulated amortisation.

Movements in the corporate nomination rights were as follows:

	<i>The Group and the Foundation</i>	
	<i>2024</i>	<i>2023</i>
	<i>\$'million</i>	<i>\$'million</i>
At the beginning of the year	29.2	34.6
Issued during the year	5.0	-
Less: Amortisation to statement of comprehensive income	(1.6)	(2.9)
Less: Redemption during the year	(2.5)	(2.5)
At the end of the year	30.1	29.2
Less: Within one year or on demand	(2.0)	(1.5)
After one year	28.1	27.7

## 27 Reserves

The reserves of the Group and the Foundation represent the excess of assets over liabilities; the opening and closing balances and the movements during the year are set out in the statement of changes in reserves.

### (a) *Capital fund*

The Foundation has introduced individual and corporate nomination rights schemes and a non-refundable capital levy. The income from these is designated solely to finance redevelopment projects of the Foundation and hence is included in the capital fund.

Renaissance College and Discovery College of the Group introduced non-refundable building levy and nomination rights. The income therefrom is designated solely to finance capital expenditure and hence is included in the capital fund.

During the year, the Group and the Foundation transferred \$97.5 million (2023: \$97.2 million) and \$71.4 million (2023: \$72.6 million), respectively, from capital fund to general reserve. The transfer represented the depreciation charge of capital projects funded by the capital fund.

### (b) *Investment fund*

The investment fund represents the fund transferred to ESFI for investment. During the year, there is no such transfer (2023: Nil).

### (c) *Building reserve*

The reserves of the Group and the Foundation represent the excess of assets over liabilities and fixed assets are one of the major components. As part of the continuous improvement programme, the Group's reserves were reviewed. In addition to the capital fund, building reserve was created to set aside the sum spent or reserved for the expansion, maintaining or replacing buildings in order to facilitate financial management and understanding of the financial position.

During the year, the Group and the Foundation transferred \$117.1 million (2023: \$76.9 million) from general reserve to building reserve to reflect the sum spent or reserved. The available funds for future expansion, maintaining or replacing buildings is \$887.0 million (2023: \$689.2 million).

### (d) *Development fund*

The Board and management reviewed the strategic direction of the Group periodically. As part of continuous enhancement of the Group's long term provisions, a development fund was created to set aside a sum for this purpose. During the year, the Group and the Foundation transferred \$30.0 million (2023: Nil) from general reserve to development fund.



## 27 Reserves (continued)

### (e) Schools reserves

The Group's reserves include the accumulated surplus of individual schools of the Foundation which amounted to \$275.7 million as at 31 August 2024 (2023: \$271.4 million). These reserves have been designated to finance operating and capital activities at individual schools at the discretion of the respective School Councils. From their reserves as at 31 August 2024, the respective School Councils have authorised or contracted for capital commitments of \$142.9 million (2023: \$120.1 million). The respective School Councils also reserve certain sums for major upgrades at schools.

During the year, \$64.6 million (2023: \$40.6 million) was transferred from schools reserves to general reserve. The transfer represented various schools capital expenditure during the year which was funded by the schools reserves.

### (f) Capital management

The Group is a non-profit making organisation whose principal activity is the operation of schools to provide education through the medium of English language. The Group is not subject to any externally imposed capital requirements; its activities are mainly funded by tuition fees, government subventions, donations, and investment income.

In the absence of any capital the Group's reserves are maintained at a level necessary to meet the Group's short and long-term objectives taking account the importance of safeguarding the Group's ability to continue as a going concern.

## 28 Financial risk management and fair values

Exposure to credit, liquidity and interest rate risks arises in the normal course of the Group's activities. The Group is also exposed to currency and market price risks arising from its investments in funds (note 8). The Group describes below the Group's exposure to these risks and the financial risk management policies and practices used to manage these risks.

### (a) Credit risk

The Group's credit risk is primarily attributable to bank deposits, cash and cash equivalents and fees and other receivables. Management has a credit policy in place and the exposure to these credit risks are monitored on an ongoing basis.

The Group's bank deposits and cash and cash equivalents are placed with major financial institutions.

The maximum exposure to credit risk is represented by the carrying amount of each financial asset in the statement of financial position.



## 28 Financial risk management and fair values (continued)

### (b) Liquidity risk

The Group's policy is to regularly monitor liquidity requirements to ensure that the Group maintains sufficient reserves of cash and adequate committed lines of funding from major financial institutions to meet its liquidity requirements in the short and longer term.

The earliest settlement dates of the Foundation's and the Group's financial liabilities at the end of the reporting period are all within one year/on demand or undated and the contractual amounts of the financial liabilities are all equal to their carrying amounts except for lease liabilities of which the repayment schedule is disclosed in note 21.

### (c) Interest rate risk

The Group's exposure to changes in interest rates relates primarily to bank deposits, cash at bank and lease liabilities. The Foundation's exposure to changes in interest rates relates primarily to bank deposits, cash at bank, lease liabilities and loan to subsidiary. The interest rate profile of the Group and the Foundation is set out in (i) below.

(i) The following table details the Group's and the Foundation's interest rate profile, deposits and borrowings (as defined above) at the end of reporting period:

	The Group			The Foundation		
	2024	2023		2024	2023	
	Effective interest rate %	\$'million	Effective interest rate %	Effective interest rate %	\$'million	Effective interest rate %
Loan to subsidiary	-	-	-	-	-	5.85%
Lease liabilities	5.95%	(47.7)	5.89%	3.03%	(21.9)	1.16%
Deposits with original maturities greater than three months	4.47%	1,503.4	4.51%	4.51%	1,467.3	4.55%
Restricted cash	-	3.1	-	-	-	-
Cash and cash equivalents	1.10%	615.2	0.68%	1.64%	160.5	2.09%
		2,074.0			1,605.9	
					1,352.4	

## 28 Financial risk management and fair values (continued)

### (ii) Sensitivity analysis

At 31 August 2024, it is estimated that a general increase/decrease of 100 basis points (2023: 100 basis points) in interest rates, with all other variables held constant, would have increased/decreased the Group's surplus for the year by approximately \$20.7 million (2023: \$17.2 million). Other components of reserves would not be affected (2023: Nil) by the changes in interest rates.

The sensitivity analysis above indicates the annualised impact on the Group's surplus that would arise assuming that the change in interest rates had occurred at the end of reporting period and had been applied to those floating rate instruments which expose the Group to cash flow interest rate risk at that date. The analysis has been performed on the same basis for 2023.

### (d) *Currency risk*

The Group operates in Hong Kong and has limited exposure to currency risk which arises from foreign currency purchases and receipts/payments for school activities jointly organised with overseas institutions.

ESFI's functional currency is Hong Kong dollars ("HKD"). ESFI is exposed to currency risk primarily through its investments in financial assets that are denominated in United States dollars ("USD"). Since HKD is pegged to USD, ESFI's exposure to foreign currency risk in respect of financial assets denominated in USD is considered to be minimal.

### (e) *Equity price risk*

As at 31 August 2024, the Group has investments in unlisted funds of \$587.7 million (2023: \$518.2 million) (note 8). The Group is exposed to market price risk from these investments. The fair value change for the Group's unlisted investment funds in 2024 were \$72.0 million gain (2023: \$43.8 million).

The Group's unlisted investments are held for long term strategic purposes. Their performance is assessed quarterly against the policy benchmark set in the investment policy statement. The Group managed the market risk through diversification of investment portfolio.

## 28 Financial risk management and fair values (continued)

At 31 August 2024, it is estimated that an increase/decrease of 5% (2023: 5%) in the fair value of the Group's unlisted investment funds, with all other variables held constant, would have increased/decreased the Group's surplus for the year and general reserves as follows:

		<u>2024</u>	
		<i>Increase/ (decrease) in surplus for the year and general reserve \$'million</i>	<i>Effect on other components of reserves \$'million</i>
<b>Change in the fund price variable:</b>			
Increase	5%	29.4	-
Decrease	5%	<u>(29.4)</u>	<u>-</u>

		<u>2023</u>	
		<i>Increase/ (decrease) in surplus for the year and general reserve \$'million</i>	<i>Effect on other components of reserves \$'million</i>
<b>Change in the fund price variable:</b>			
Increase	5%	25.9	-
Decrease	5%	<u>(25.9)</u>	<u>-</u>

The sensitivity analysis indicates the instantaneous change in the Group's surplus for the year and general reserve that would arise assuming that the changes in fair value had occurred at the end of the reporting period and had been applied to re-measure those financial assets held by the Group which expose the Group to market risk at the end of the reporting period. It is also assumed that all other variables remain constant.

### (f) Fair value measurement

Except financial assets at fair value through profit or loss (note 8), all financial assets and liabilities are carried at amounts not materially different from their fair values at the end of reporting period.

### (i) Financial assets measured at fair values

The fair value estimation of the Group's unlisted investment funds is supported by information received from the fund administrators including but not limited to monthly net assets value ("NAV") per account statements.



## 28 Financial risk management and fair values (continued)

The following table presents the fair value of the Group's financial assets measured at the end of the reporting period on a recurring basis, categorised into the three-level fair value hierarchy as defined in HKFRS 13, *Fair value measurement*. The level into which a fair value measurement is classified is determined with reference to the observability and significance of the inputs used in the valuation technique as follows:

- Level 1 valuations: Fair value measured using only Level 1 inputs i.e. unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities at the measurement date.
- Level 2 valuations: Fair value measured using Level 2 inputs i.e. observable inputs which fail to meet Level 1, and not using significant unobservable inputs. Unobservable inputs are inputs for which market data are not available.
- Level 3 valuations: Fair value measured using significant unobservable inputs.

	<i>Fair value at 31 August 2024 \$'million</i>	<i>Fair value measurements as at 31 August 2024 categorised into</i>		
		<i>Level 1 \$'million</i>	<i>Level 2 \$'million</i>	<i>Level 3 \$'million</i>

### Recurring fair value measurements

Financial assets measured at FVTPL:

- Unlisted fund investments	587.7	303.5	232.7	51.5
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	<i>Fair value at 31 August 2023 \$'million</i>	<i>Fair value measurements as at 31 August 2023 categorised into</i>		
		<i>Level 1 \$'million</i>	<i>Level 2 \$'million</i>	<i>Level 3 \$'million</i>

### Recurring fair value measurements

Financial assets measured at FVTPL:

- Unlisted fund investments	518.2	291.3	203.7	23.2
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The Group's policy is to recognise transfers between levels of fair value hierarchy as at the end of the reporting period in which they occur. There were no transfers during the year.

### *Valuation techniques and inputs used in Level 1 and 2 fair value measurements*

The Group's unlisted fund investments are valued based on the market practice where they are primarily traded which is either the closing price, last traded mid price or bid price as at the end of reporting period. If the NAV of the investments is published frequently on exchange, they are classified as Level 1. In case of infrequent published NAV, they are classified as Level 2 as described above.

## 28 Financial risk management and fair values (continued)

### Information about Level 3 fair value measurements

The level in the fair value hierarchy within which the fair value measurement is categorised in its entirety should be determined on the basis of the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement in its entirety. For this purpose, the significance of an input is assessed against the fair value measurement in its entirety. If a fair value measurement uses observable inputs that require significant adjustment based on unobservable inputs, that measurement is a level 3 measurement. Assessing the significance of a particular input to the fair value measurement in its entirety requires judgement, considering factors specific to the asset or liability.

The determination of what constitutes 'observable' requires significant judgement by the Group. The Group considers observable data to be market data that are readily available, regularly distributed or updated, reliable and verifiable, not proprietary, and provided by independent sources that are actively involved in the relevant market.

The Group's investments classified within level 3 consist of unlisted investment funds which hold unlisted private investments, which therefore have significant unobservable inputs and/or due to significant liquidity restrictions. As observable prices are not available for these securities, the fair value of these investments have been determined based on the recent net asset value of the fund.

### Movement in Level 3 fair value measurements

	2024 \$'million	2023 \$'million
At the beginning of the year	23.2	8.0
Purchase	24.9	12.7
Distribution	(3.1)	(0.1)
Net movement in unrealised gains	6.5	2.6
	<hr/>	<hr/>
At the end of the year	51.5	23.2

There was no transfer between levels during the years ended 31 August 2024 and 2023.

## 29 Commitments

The Group and the Foundation have certain capital commitments relating mainly to the renovation of the schools and major upgrades of information technology systems. Capital commitments outstanding at 31 August 2024 not provided for in these financial statements were as follows:

	<u>The Group</u>		<u>The Foundation</u>	
	2024 \$'million	2023 \$'million	2024 \$'million	2023 \$'million
Contracted for	64.6	25.5	62.6	23.6
Authorised but not contracted for	435.7	408.1	414.7	408.1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	500.3	433.6	477.3	431.7



## 29 Commitments (continued)

The Group and the Foundation entered a memorandum of understanding to purchase a company that was the sole registered and beneficial owner of an office property on 15 November 2024. The purchase is expected to be completed by 31 December 2024 at a price of \$323,048,000.

## 30 Material related party transactions

### **Accounting policy**

- (a) A person, or a close member of that person's family, is related to the Group if that person:
  - (i) has control or joint control over the Group;
  - (ii) has significant influence over the Group; or
  - (iii) is a member of the key management personnel of the Group or the Group's parent.
- (b) An entity is related to the Group if any of the following conditions applies:
  - (i) The entity and the Group are members of the same Group (which means that each parent, subsidiary and fellow subsidiary is related to the others).
  - (ii) One entity is an associate or joint venture of the other entity (or an associate or joint venture of a member of a group of which the other entity is a member).
  - (iii) Both entities are joint ventures of the same third party.
  - (iv) One entity is a joint venture of a third entity and the other entity is an associate of the third entity.
  - (v) The entity is a post-employment benefit plan for the benefit of employees of either the Group or an entity related to the Group.
  - (vi) The entity is controlled or jointly controlled by a person identified in (a).
  - (vii) A person identified in (a)(i) has significant influence over the entity or is a member of the key management personnel of the entity (or of a parent of the entity).
  - (viii) The entity, or any member of a group of which it is a part, provides key management personnel services to the Foundation or the Group.

Close members of the family of a person are those family members who may be expected to influence, or be influenced by, that person in their dealings with the entity.

### **Board of Governors and key management personnel remuneration**

Key management personnel consist of the following:



### 30 Material related party transactions (continued)

- (i) Full time paid employees who are also members of the Board of Governors, namely, representatives of the Committee of Principals, the Committee of Teachers, the Committee of Support Staff and the Chief Executive Officer who is an ex-officio member of the Board of Governors; and
- (ii) Chief Financial Officer, Director of Communications, Director of Education, Director of Facilities, Director of Governance, Director of Human Resources, Director of Strategic Performance and Quality Assurance.

The members of the Board of Governors other than those mentioned in note (i) did not receive any remuneration during the current and previous years.

Remuneration for key management personnel is as follows:

	2024 \$'million	2023 \$'million
Salaries, allowances and benefits in kind	26.8	26.2
Retirement costs	0.2	0.2
	<u>27.0</u>	<u>26.4</u>

### 31 Other material accounting policies

Apart from the accounting policies presented within the corresponding notes to the financial statements, the other material accounting policies applied in the preparation of these consolidated financial statements are set out below:

#### (a) Statement of compliance

The consolidated financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024 comprise the Foundation and its subsidiaries.

The Board has prepared the consolidated financial statements to comply with the requirements under The English Schools Foundation Ordinance and The English Schools Foundation (General) Regulation and in accordance with all applicable Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards ("HKFRSs"), which collective term includes all applicable individual Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards, Hong Kong Accounting Standards ("HKASs") and Interpretations issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA"), and accounting principles generally accepted in Hong Kong.

#### (b) Changes in accounting policies

The HKICPA has issued certain amendments to HKFRSs and a new HKFRS that are first effective for the current accounting period of the Group.

None of the developments have had a material effect on how the Group's results and financial position for the current or prior periods have been prepared or presented. The Group has not applied any new standard or interpretation that is not yet effective for the current accounting period (see note 32).

### **31 Other material accounting policies (continued)**

#### **(c) Basis of preparation of the financial statements**

The Group uses the historical cost basis to prepare the financial statements except that the financial assets at fair value through profit or loss are stated at their fair value as explained in the accounting policies set out in notes 8 and 28(f).

In order to prepare financial statements that comply with HKFRSs the Group has to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. The Group believes the estimates and associated assumptions, which the Group makes based on historical experience and various other factors, are reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The Group reviews the estimates and underlying assumptions on an ongoing basis. The Group recognises revisions to accounting estimates in the year the Group revises the estimate if the revision affects only that year, or in the year of the revision and future years if the revision affects both current and future years.

#### **(d) Impairment of assets**

The Group uses internal and external sources of information at the end of each reporting period to identify indications that fixed assets may be impaired or an impairment loss previously recognised no longer exists or may have decreased.

If any such indication exists, the Group estimates the asset's recoverable amount and recognises an impairment loss if the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its recoverable amount.

The recoverable amount of an asset is the greater of its fair value less cost of disposal (if measurable) or value in use (if determinable). In assessing value in use, the Group discounts the estimated future cash flows to their present value using a discount rate that reflects current market assessments of time value of money and the risks specific to the asset. Where an asset does not generate cash inflows largely independent of those from other assets, the Group determines the recoverable amount for the smallest group of assets that generates cash inflows independently (i.e. a cash-generating unit).

The Group reverses an impairment loss if there has been a favourable change in the estimates used to determine the recoverable amount. A reversal of impairment losses is limited to the asset's carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised in prior years. The Group credits reversals of impairment losses as income in the year in which the reversals are recognised.

#### **(e) Inventories**

The Group carries inventories that consist of uniforms held for resale at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

The Group calculates cost using the first-in-first-out method and comprises all costs of purchase, costs of conversion and other costs incurred in bringing the inventories to their present location and condition.



### 31 Other material accounting policies (continued)

Net realisable value is the Group's estimate of selling price in the ordinary course of business less the estimated costs of completion and the estimated costs necessary to make the sale.

When inventories are sold, the Group recognises the carrying amount of those inventories as an expense in the year in which the related income is recognised. The Group recognises the amount of any write-down of inventories to net realisable value and all losses of inventories as an expense in the year the write-down or loss occurs and the amount of any reversal of any write-down of inventories as a reduction in the amount of inventories recognised as an expense in the year in which the reversal occurs.

#### (f) *Provisions, contingent liabilities and onerous contracts*

##### (i) Provisions and contingent liabilities

Generally provisions are determined by discounting the expected future cash flows at a pre-tax rate that reflects current market assessment of the time value of money and the risks specific to the liability.

Where it is not probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required, or the amount cannot be estimated reliably, the Group discloses the obligation as a contingent liability, unless the probability of outflow of economic benefits is remote. Unless the probability of outflow of economic benefits is remote, the Group also discloses as contingent liabilities possible obligations, whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more future events.

Where some or all of the expenditure required to settle a provision is expected to be reimbursed by another party, a separate asset is recognised for any expected reimbursement that would be virtually certain. The amount recognised for the reimbursement is limited to the carrying amount of the provision.

##### (ii) Onerous contracts

An onerous contract exists when the Group has a contract under which the unavoidable costs of meeting the obligations under the contract exceed the economic benefits expected to be received from the contract. Provisions for onerous contracts are measured at the present value of the lower of the expected cost of terminating the contract and the net cost of fulfilling the contract. The cost of fulfilling the contract includes both the incremental costs of fulfilling that contract and an allocation of other costs that relate directly to fulfilling that contract.

#### (g) *Functional and presentation currency*

These financial statements are presented in Hong Kong dollars, which is the Group's and the Foundation's functional and presentation currency. All financial information presented in Hong Kong dollars has been rounded to \$0.1 million unless stated otherwise.



## 32 Possible impact of amendments, new standards and interpretations issued but not yet effective for the current reporting year

Up to the date of issue of these financial statements, the HKICPA has issued a number of new or amended standards, which are not yet effective for the year ended 31 August 2024 and which have not been adopted in these financial statements.

*Effective for  
accounting periods  
beginning on or after*

Amendments to HKAS 1, <i>Presentation of financial statements: Classification of liabilities as current or non-current</i>	1 January 2024
Amendments to HKAS 1, <i>Presentation of financial statements: Non-current liabilities with covenants</i>	1 January 2024
Amendments to HKFRS 16, <i>Leases: Lease liability in a sale and leaseback</i>	1 January 2024
Amendments to HKAS 7, <i>Statement of cash flows</i> and HKFRS 7, <i>Financial Instruments: Disclosures: Supplier finance arrangements</i>	1 January 2024
Amendments to HKAS 21, <i>The effects of changes in foreign exchange rates: Lack of exchangeability</i>	1 January 2025
Amendments to HKFRS 9, <i>Financial instruments</i> and HKFRS 7, <i>Financial instruments: disclosures - Amendments to the classification and measurement of financial instruments</i>	1 January 2026
Annual improvements to HKFRSs - Volume 11	1 January 2026
HKFRS 18, <i>Presentation and disclosure in financial statements</i>	1 January 2027
HKFRS 19, <i>Subsidiaries without public accountability: disclosures</i>	1 January 2027

The Group is in the process of making an assessment of what the impact of these developments is expected to be in the period of initial application. So far it has concluded that the adoption of them is unlikely to have a significant impact on the financial statements.

# Independent auditor's report to the Board of Governors of The English Schools Foundation

*(Incorporated in Hong Kong under The English Schools Foundation Ordinance)*

## Opinion

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of The English Schools Foundation (the "Foundation") and its subsidiaries (together the "Group") set out on pages 4 to 60, which comprise the consolidated and Foundation statements of financial position as at 31 August 2024, the consolidated and Foundation statements of comprehensive income, the consolidated and Foundation statements of changes in reserves and the consolidated and Foundation cash flow statements for the year then ended and notes, comprising material accounting policy information and other explanatory information.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements give a true and fair view of the consolidated financial position of the Group and the Foundation as at 31 August 2024 and of their financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards ("HKFRSs") issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA").

## Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Hong Kong Standards on Auditing ("HKSAs") issued by the HKICPA. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the consolidated financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the HKICPA's *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* ("the Code") and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

## Information other than the consolidated financial statements and auditor's report thereon

The Board of Governors of the Foundation is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises all the information included in the annual report, other than the consolidated financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the consolidated financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the consolidated financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the consolidated financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

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.



# Independent auditor's report to the Board of Governors of The English Schools Foundation (continued)

*(Incorporated in Hong Kong under The English Schools Foundation Ordinance)*

## **Responsibilities of the Board of Governors for the consolidated financial statements**

The Board of Governors is responsible for the preparation of the consolidated financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with HKFRSs issued by the HKICPA, and for such internal control as the Board of Governors determines is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the consolidated financial statements, the Board of Governors is responsible for assessing the Group'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 Board of Governors either intends to liquidate the Group or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

## **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the consolidated financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated 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. This report is made solely to you, as a body, in accordance with our agreed terms of engagement and for no other purpose. We do not assume responsibility towards or accept liability to any other person for the contents of this report.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with HKSAAs 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 consolidated financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with HKSAAs, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Group's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board of Governors.





## Independent auditor's report to the Board of Governors of The English Schools Foundation (continued)

*(Incorporated in Hong Kong under The English Schools Foundation Ordinance)*

### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the consolidated financial statements (continued)**

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Board of Governors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the consolidated financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Group to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the consolidated financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the consolidated financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Group to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

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

We also provide the Audit Committee with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence and communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence and, where applicable, related safeguards.

Certified Public Accountants

8th Floor, Prince's Building  
10 Chater Road  
Central, Hong Kong

09 DEC 2024

