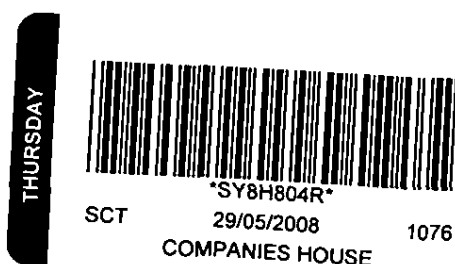


Alpha Schools (Highland) Project Plc
Annual report and financial statements
For the year ended 31 January 2008



Company No. 05516176

Officers and professional advisers

Company registration number	05516176
Registered office	Cowley Business Park Cowley Uxbridge Middlesex UB8 2AL
Directors	R Christie R S Fullerton A S Richards
Secretary	P Money
Bankers	Royal Bank of Scotland Plc 142-144 Princes Street Edinburgh EH2 4EQ
Independent Auditor	Grant Thornton UK LLP Chartered Accountants Registered Auditors 1-4 Atholl Crescent Edinburgh EH3 8LQ

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Report of the directors

The directors submit their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 January 2008

Business review and principal activities

The Company's principal activity is to finance the activities of Alpha Schools (Highland) Limited, a Special Purpose Company that has been established to enter into a Private Finance Initiative ("PFI") contract with The Highland Council. The PFI contract involves the design, build and financing of eleven primary and secondary schools together with the provision of certain facilities management services within these schools.

On 6 April 2006, the Company issued fixed rate bonds of £81,405,210 and borrowed a fixed rate loan from the European Investment Bank ("EIB") of £60,000,000. The proceeds raised in respect of the bonds and loan (less debt issue costs) have been lent to Alpha Schools (Highland) Limited under the terms of an On-Loan Agreement to enable it to carry out its obligations under the PFI contract. The same terms that apply to the Company in respect of the bonds and loan also apply to Alpha Schools (Highland) Limited.

The principal risk facing the Company is the inability to meet its obligations in respect of interest and principal repayments on the bonds and EIB loan. A Financial Guarantee provided by Ambac Assurance UK Limited ("Ambac") is in place to manage this risk. Under the terms of the Guarantee, Ambac unconditionally and irrevocably agrees to pay all sums due and payable by the Company in the event that the Company fails to pay.

In order to meet its contractual obligations, the Company is dependent on receipt of funds from Alpha Schools (Highland) Limited and therefore is dependent on the successful operation of Alpha Schools (Highland) Limited and the PFI contract in general. The contractual arrangements for the PFI contract have however been structured to minimise the risks retained by Alpha Schools (Highland) Limited and there are various security and contractual arrangements in place to protect Alpha Schools (Highland) Limited from default or non-performance by any sub-contractors. Alpha Schools (Highland) Holdings Limited has also guaranteed the obligations of Alpha Schools (Highland) Limited to the Company under the Intercompany On-Loan Agreements.

The Company has not since its date of incorporation carried on any business or activities other than incidental to the financing of Alpha Schools (Highland) Limited.

Both the Company and Alpha Schools (Highland) Limited are wholly owned subsidiaries of Alpha Schools (Highland) Holdings Limited. Alpha Schools (Highland) Holdings Limited is owned fifty per cent by Morrison Education (Highland) Limited (a subsidiary of Galliford Try Plc) and fifty per cent by Northern Infrastructure Investments LLP (a joint venture between Noble Group Holdings Limited and 3i Infrastructure Limited).

Future developments

The directors do not anticipate any changes in the Company's activities. Under the terms of the PFI Contract between Alpha Schools (Highland) Limited and The Highland Council, all of the schools will be completed and handed over to The Highland Council by September 2009 following a phased programme which commenced on 26 March 2007. Full facilities management services will also commence on each school as they are completed and handed over.

Report of the directors (continued)

Results and dividends

The profit for the year amounted to £Nil (2007 £Nil)

The directors do not recommend payment of a dividend in respect of the year (2007 £Nil)

Financial risk management objectives

The Directors' approach to financial risk management objectives and exposures have been set out in note 7 of these financial statements

Summary of key performance indicators

The directors have monitored the progress of the overall company strategy and the individual strategic elements by reference to the following financial indicator

	2008	2007	Method of calculation
	£	£	
Net debt	138,704,313	138,611,822	Total net debt at balance sheet date

Directors and their interests

The directors of the Company who held office during the year and to date are as follows

R Christie
R S Fullerton
A S Richards

In accordance with the Company's Articles of Association, none of its directors are required to retire. None of the directors who held office at the beginning or end of the year had any interests in the shares of the Company

Directors' responsibilities

The directors are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to

Report of the directors (continued)

Directors' responsibilities (continued)

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as each of the directors is aware

- there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware, and
- the directors have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information

Auditor

A resolution to re-appoint Grant Thornton UK LLP as auditor for the ensuing year will be proposed at the annual general meeting in accordance with section 385 of the Companies Act 1985.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD



A S Richards
Director

22 May 2008

Registered in England - No 05516176

Registered Office
Cowley Business Park
High Street
Cowley
Uxbridge
Middlesex
UB8 2AL

Corporate governance statement

The Company has listed securities in issue and as such is required to disclose its compliance with the provisions set out in the Combined Code on Corporate Governance. The Company is committed to applying the highest principles of corporate governance. However, due to the size and restricted nature of the Company's business, there are certain areas of the Combined Code where the directors consider that full compliance would not be justified.

The Board and its directors

The Company is led by a Board of directors. The appointment of the directors is pursuant to a Shareholders' Agreement dated 29 March 2006 and under the terms of this Agreement, both Morrison Education (Highland) Limited ("MEHL") and Northern Infrastructure Investments LLP ("NII") are entitled to appoint two directors to the Board of the Company.

Two directors are currently appointed by MEHL and one director is appointed by NII. Each director is entitled to appoint an Alternate Director for the purposes of attending a specific board meeting.

Each director is of equal standing. Due to the size and nature of the Company, there is no appointed chairman or chief executive. There is also no distinction drawn between executive and non-executive directors. As such the Company does not comply with Provisions A 1.2, A 1.3, A 2 and A 3 of the Combined Code.

The Board ensures that each director has arranged appropriate insurance cover in respect of legal action against him or herself. The Company does not arrange this insurance which is not in compliance with Provision A 1.5.

The Board acknowledges that it is collectively responsible for the success of the company by providing leadership, setting the company's strategic aims, ensuring that the necessary financial and human resources are in place, and reviewing management performance.

In order to discharge these responsibilities, the Board meet on a regular basis throughout the year. Since the commencement of the PFI contract in April 2006, the Board has held monthly Management Meetings at which it discusses the activities of the Company, Alpha Schools (Highland) Limited and Alpha Schools (Highland) Holdings Limited. In addition the Board holds a six-monthly Board Meeting. The Management and Board Meetings are also attended by key members of the project's management team. The table below indicates the number of meetings held and the number of meetings attended by each director.

	Board	Management
Number of meetings held in the year	2	10
R Christie	2	9
R S Fullerton	2	10
A S Richards	1	8

Corporate governance statement (continued)

The Board and its directors (continued)

All directors receive appropriate and timely information and briefing papers in advance of the Management and Board Meetings. Whilst day to day management of the Company is delegated to the management team, there is a formal schedule of matters reserved for decision by the Board. These include such matters as the provision of guarantees or indemnities in respect of any liability, entering into any other financing facility, approval of the annual budget or engaging in any other activity.

Appointments to the Board are made in line with the Shareholders' Agreement. There is no Nomination Committee and therefore the Company does not comply with Provision A 4 of the Code.

Due to the size and nature of the Company, the Board does not undertake a formal annual evaluation of its performance and that of its directors and there is no formal policy on re-election of directors. Consequently, the Company does not comply with Provisions A 6 and A 7 of the Code. The directors however ensure that the Board is structured in such a way that each member of the Board is able to bring different experiences and skills to the operation of the Company and encourages and supports each director to regularly update and refresh their skills and knowledge.

Remuneration

None of the directors receive any remuneration as directors of the Company. There is therefore no remuneration policy or procedure and no Remuneration Committee. The Company has therefore not complied with Provisions B 1 or B 2 of the Combined Code.

Accountability and audit

The Board seeks to present a balanced and understandable assessment of the Company's position and prospects. There is no Audit Committee as the size and nature of the Company does not warrant such a committee. The company therefore does not comply with Provision C 3 of the Combined Code. The Board itself maintains a relationship with the external auditors which allows it to monitor their objectivity, independence and cost-effectiveness.

Internal control

The Board has applied principle C 2 of the Combined Code by establishing a process for identifying, evaluating and managing the significant risks the Company faces. The Board annually reviews the process, which has been in place from the start of the year to the date of approval of this report. However, due to the size and nature of the Company's business, this process is not in compliance with the revised guidance on internal control published in October 2005 (the Turnbull Guidance). The Board is responsible for the Company's system of internal control and for reviewing its effectiveness. Such a system is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives, and can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

In compliance with Provision C 2.1 of the Combined Code, the Board reviews the effectiveness of the Company's system of internal control. The Board's monitoring covers all controls, including financial, operational and compliance controls and risk management. It is based principally on reviewing financial and operational reports from management to consider whether significant risks are identified, evaluated, managed and controlled and whether any significant weaknesses are promptly remedied and indicate a need for more extensive monitoring.

Corporate governance statement (continued)

Internal control (continued)

The Board has not identified nor been advised of any failings or weaknesses which it has determined to be significant during the course of its review of the system of internal control. Therefore a confirmation in respect of necessary actions has not been considered appropriate. Due to the size and nature of the Company, the Board does not consider there to be a requirement for an Internal Audit Function although the requirement for this is considered annually.

Going concern

The directors are required under the Combined Code on Corporate Governance to have satisfied themselves as to the Company's ability to continue in existence for the foreseeable future. This has been carried out and the directors have concluded that the Group has adequate resources and is justified in using the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Dialogue with shareholders

The Company is a wholly owned subsidiary of Alpha Schools (Highland) Holdings Limited although one nominee share is held by Morrison Education (Highland) Limited. Dialogue with the ultimate parent undertaking and controlling parties is managed through the monthly management meetings, six-monthly board meetings and the Annual General Meeting ("AGM").

All Directors attend the AGM, and shareholders have the opportunity to question any member of the Board on any relevant topic. Each substantial issue raised is proposed as an individual resolution of the AGM and voted on.



Report of the independent auditor to the members of Alpha Schools (Highland) Project Plc

We have audited the financial statements of Alpha Schools (Highland) Project Plc for the year ended 31 January 2008 which comprise the principal accounting policies, the profit and loss account, the balance sheet and the related notes 1 to 11. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein.

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 235 of the Companies Act 1985. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditor

The directors' responsibilities for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom law and Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) are set out in the statement of directors' responsibilities.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and whether the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985. We also report to you whether in our opinion the information given in the Report of the Directors is consistent with the financial statements.

In addition we report to you if, in our opinion, the company has not kept proper accounting records, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if information specified by law regarding directors' remuneration and other transactions is not disclosed.

We review whether the Corporate Governance Statement reflects the company's compliance with the nine provisions of the 2006 Combined Code specified for our review by the Listing Rules of the Financial Services Authority and we report if it does not. We are not required to consider whether the board's statements on internal control cover all risks and controls, or form an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's corporate governance procedures or its risk and control procedures.

We read other information contained in the annual report and consider whether it is consistent with the audited financial statements. This other information comprises only the Report of the Directors and the Corporate Governance Statement. We consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements. Our responsibilities do not extend to any other information.

Report of the independent auditor to the members of Alpha Schools (Highland) Project Plc (continued)

Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion

- the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 January 2008 and of its result for the year then ended,
- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985, and
- the information given in the Report of the Directors is consistent with the financial statements



GRANT THORNTON UK LLP
REGISTERED AUDITORS
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Edinburgh

22 May 2008

Profit and loss account

	Note	2008 £	2007 £
Interest payable and similar charges	3	(7,081,470)	(5,875,092)
Interest receivable	3	7,081,470	5,875,092
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Taxation	4	-	-
Result for the year		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

All activities are continuing

There is no difference between the profit on ordinary activities before taxation and the result for the year stated above and their historic cost equivalents

The Company has no recognised gains and losses other than the loss above and therefore no separate statement of total recognised gains and losses has been presented

Balance sheet

	Note	2008 £	2007 £
Fixed asset investments			
Loans to fellow subsidiary undertakings	5	138,754,313	138,661,822
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>138,754,313</u>	<u>138,661,822</u>
Creditors - amounts falling due after more than one year	6	(138,704,313)	(138,611,822)
Net assets		<u>50,000</u>	<u>50,000</u>
Capital and reserves			
Called-up share capital	8	50,000	50,000
Equity shareholders' funds	9	<u>50,000</u>	<u>50,000</u>



A S Richards
Director

The directors approved the financial statements on 22 May 2008

Notes to the financial statements

1 Principal accounting policies

(a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis, under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Companies Act 1985 and applicable accounting standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). A summary of the more important accounting policies is set out below, together with an explanation of where changes have been made to previous policies on the adoption of new accounting standards in the year.

FRS 29 (Financial Instruments Disclosures) requires the Company to provide certain disclosures in respect of its financial instruments. FRS 29 has been applied for the first time this year and has had no effect on the classification and valuation of the company's financial instruments.

(b) Cash flow statement

The Company is exempt from the requirement of FRS 1 (Revised) to prepare a cash flow statement as its results are included in the consolidated financial statements of Alpha Schools (Highland) Holdings Limited which includes a cash flow statement.

(c) Taxation

The current tax charge is based on the profit for the year and is measured at the amounts expected to be paid based on the tax rates and laws substantively enacted by the balance sheet date. Current and deferred tax is recognised in the profit and loss account for the period except to the extent that it is attributable to a gain or loss that is or has been recognised directly in the statement of total recognised gains and losses.

Deferred tax is measured at the tax rates that are expected to apply in the periods in which timing differences reverse, based on tax rates and laws enacted or substantively enacted at the balance sheet date. A deferred tax asset is not recognised to the extent that the transfer of economic benefits in the future is uncertain. Deferred tax assets and liabilities recognised have not been discounted.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Principal accounting policies (continued)

(d) Financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are obligations to pay cash or other financial assets and are recognised when the Company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial liabilities are recorded initially at fair value, net of direct issue costs.

Financial liabilities are subsequently recorded at amortised cost using the effective interest method, with interest-related charges recognised as an expense in finance cost in the profit and loss account. Finance charges, including premiums payable on settlement or redemption and direct issue costs, are charged to the profit and loss account on an accruals basis using the effective interest method and are added to the carrying amount of the instrument to the extent that they are not settled in the period in which they arise.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation is extinguished, that is, when the obligation is discharged or cancelled or expires.

(e) Financial assets

Financial assets are divided into the following categories: loans and receivables and financial assets at fair value through profit or loss.

All financial assets are recognised when the company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial assets other than those categorised as at fair value through profit or loss are recognised at fair value plus transaction costs. Financial assets categorised as at fair value through profit or loss are recognised initially at fair value with transaction costs expensed through the profit and loss account.

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. Inter-company debtors are classified as loans and receivables. Loans and receivables are measured subsequent to initial recognition at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. Any change in their value through impairment or reversal of impairment is recognised in the profit and loss account.

Provision against inter-company debtors is made when there is objective evidence that the company will not be able to collect all amounts due to it in accordance with the original terms of those receivables. The amount of the write-down is determined as the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows.

An assessment for impairment is undertaken at least at each balance sheet date.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

2 Operating profit

None of the directors received any remuneration as directors from the Company during the year. The Company has no directly employed personnel.

Audit fees and other administration expenses are borne by Alpha Schools (Highland) Limited, a fellow subsidiary undertaking.

3 Interest payable and similar charges (net)

	2008	2007
	£	£
Interest payable on bonds and secured loans	7,081,470	5,875,092
Interest receivable from Alpha Schools (Highland) Limited	<u>(7,081,470)</u>	<u>(5,875,092)</u>
Finance costs net	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>

4 Taxation

The results for the year do not give rise to a tax charge (2007 £Nil).

5 Fixed asset investments

	2008	2007
	£	£
Amounts owed by Alpha Schools (Highland) Limited	138,704,313	138,611,822
Amounts owed by Alpha Schools (Highland) Holdings Limited	49,999	49,999
Amounts owed by Morrison Education (Highland) Limited	1	1
	<u>138,754,313</u>	<u>138,661,822</u>

Loans to fellow subsidiary undertakings are considered to be fixed asset investments as they are intended for use on a continuing basis in the company's activities. The directors consider such loans to be held for the long term over the life of the related debt. Amounts owed by Alpha Schools (Highland) Limited represent a loan which is made up of the proceeds of the issue of £81,405,210 of fixed rate bonds and a £60,000,000 fixed rate loan from the European Investment Bank ("EIB"). The Company has lent the proceeds of both the bond and EIB loan to Alpha Schools (Highland) Limited on the same terms as those applicable to the Company. The loans are stated at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method and are net of unamortised issue costs of £1,271,511 (2007 £1,365,400).

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

6 Creditors - amounts falling due after more than one year

	2008	2007
	£	£
Borrowings		
Fixed rate secured bonds	79,808,946	79,757,891
Secured bank term loans	58,895,367	58,853,931
	<u>138,704,313</u>	<u>138,611,822</u>
Repayable as follows		
Less than one year	-	-
Between one and two years	1,308,058	-
Between two and five years	9,314,531	7,530,625
After five years	128,081,724	131,081,197
Total borrowings	<u>138,704,313</u>	<u>138,611,822</u>

The undiscounted contractual maturities are repayable as follows

Less than one year	-	-
Between one and two years	2,719,331	-
Between two and five years	16,315,985	10,877,324
After five years	122,369,895	130,527,886
Total borrowings	<u>141,405,210</u>	<u>141,405,210</u>

Fixed rate senior guaranteed secured bonds due in 2036 of £100,400,000 were created on 6 April 2006. Of this £81,400,000 were issued and sold at a market value of £81,405,210. The Company has £19,000,000 variation bonds which may be used to finance certain variations within the PFI contract. The bonds are repayable in semi-annual instalments commencing on 31 January 2010 and ending on 31 January 2036. Interest on the bonds is also payable semi-annually at a rate of 4.792% per annum and payments commenced on 31 July 2006.

The secured bank term loan is from the European Investment Bank. Principal repayments are made semi-annually commencing on 31 January 2010 and ending on 31 January 2035. Interest on the loan is also payable semi-annually at the rate of 4.58% per annum and payments commenced on 31 July 2006.

Payments in respect of both the bonds and EIB loan are guaranteed by Ambac Assurance UK Limited which unconditionally and irrevocably guarantees to pay all sums due and payable by the Company in the event that the Company fails to pay. The cost of this guarantee is treated as a direct cost of finance by the Company.

The fixed rate senior guaranteed bonds and the secured bank term loan are each stated at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method and are net of unamortised issue costs of £1,271,511 (2007 £1,365,400). These costs together with the interest expense are allocated to the profit and loss account over the term of the loans. Interest is calculated using the effective interest rate method.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

6 Creditors - amounts falling due after more than one year (continued)

The borrowings are secured by a fixed charge over the assets of the Company, an assignment of all rights under the legal agreements to which the Company is a party and a floating charge over all the Company's undertakings and assets which have not been effectively secured by way of a fixed charge or assignment. The carrying value of the Company's secured assets (including those of its fellow subsidiary) at the balance sheet date was £143,858,865 (2007 £144,464,400).

The Company, Alpha Schools (Highland) Holdings Limited and Alpha Schools (Highland) Limited have granted a joint and several guarantee in respect of each other's obligations under the senior finance documents. Alpha Schools (Highland) Holdings Limited has also guaranteed the obligations of Alpha Schools (Highland) Limited to the Company under the Intercompany Onloan Agreements.

The company has the following loan commitments at the year end:

After five years	15,200,000	15,200,000
Total loan commitments	15,200,000	15,200,000

Northern Infrastructure Investments LLP and Morrison Education (Highland) Limited own 50% each of the group as at 31 January 2008. Both parties are committed to putting into Alpha Schools (Highland) Holdings Ltd a total amount of £15.2m of subordinated debt, repayable in 30 years.

Alpha Schools (Highland) Holdings Ltd is committed to using those funds to subscribe for £15.2m of loan notes in Alpha Schools (Highland) Project Plc under the same terms and conditions. Further, Alpha Schools (Highland) Project Plc has then committed to subscribing for the same loan notes in Alpha Schools (Highland) Limited.

7 Financial instruments

The Company's financial instruments comprise borrowings and loans receivable. The sole purpose of these financial instruments is to raise finance for the operations of Alpha Schools (Highland) Limited. The Company has not entered into derivative transactions. It is, and has been throughout the year under review, the Company's policy that no trading in financial instruments be undertaken. The main risk arising from the Company's financial instruments is credit risk. The Board's policy for managing this risk is summarised below.

The company's financial instruments are summarised as follows:

Financial assets

Held to maturity investments	138,754,313	138,661,822
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Financial liabilities

Measured at amortised cost	138,704,313	138,611,822
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Notes to the financial statements (continued)

7 Financial instruments (continued)

Credit risk

The Company is dependent on receipt of funds from Alpha Schools (Highland) Limited in order to meet its contractual obligations. In turn, Alpha Schools (Highland) Limited is dependent on receipt of funds from The Highland Council in return for the delivery of services. The directors consider credit risk to be very low due to the fact that The Highland Council is a local authority and therefore public sector funded.

Further, the Company is committed to subscribing for £15.2m of loan notes in Alpha Schools (Highland) Limited, upon receipt of the funds from a similar subscription in the Company by Alpha Schools (Highland) Holdings Limited. The directors consider the credit risk attached to these loan notes to be low as Alpha Schools (Highland) Limited will service the loan from receipt of funds from The Highland Council.

In order to further manage credit risk, the directors have ensured that there are contractual arrangements in place to minimise the risks retained by Alpha Schools (Highland) Limited (for example in respect of performance and availability deductions which are principally passed on to that company's sub-contractors) and to protect it from default or other non-performance by any of its sub-contractors. As credit risk is considered to be minimal, a sensitivity analysis of the exposure has not been performed.

The Company, Alpha Schools (Highland) Holdings Limited and Alpha Schools (Highland) Limited have granted a joint and several guarantee in respect of each other's obligations under the senior finance documents. Alpha Schools (Highland) Holdings Limited has also guaranteed the obligations of Alpha Schools (Highland) Limited to the Company under the Intercompany Onloan Agreements.

Interest rate risk

The Company has no exposure to interest rate risk as all its borrowings are at a fixed rate of interest.

Liquidity risk

This risk is managed via the funding contracts into which the Company has entered. The repayment profiles of the debt and loan commitments are set out in note 6 above. In addition, the back to back lending arrangement with Alpha Schools (Highland) Limited ensures that liquidity risk within the Company is minimised.

Foreign currency risk

The Company has no foreign currency transactions. All of the Company's borrowings are denominated in sterling.

Interest rate profile

The interest rate profile of the Company's financial liabilities was as follows:

	2008	2007
	£	£
Fixed rate borrowings	<u>138,704,313</u>	<u>138,611,822</u>

The fixed rate bonds have interest payable at 4.792% and the bank loan has fixed rate interest payable at 4.58%.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

7 Financial instruments (continued)

Borrowing facilities

	Drawn £	Undrawn £	Total £
Variation bonds	-	19,000,000	19,000,000

The Company has the above undrawn borrowing facilities at 31 January 2008, expiring 2036, which are subject to various conditions

Fair values

Set out below is a comparison of book values and fair values of the Company's financial instruments

	Fair Value 2008 £	Fair Value 2007 £	Book Value 2008 £	Book Value 2007 £
Financial assets				
Loans to fellow subsidiary undertakings	131,560,347	137,311,950	138,704,313	138,611,882
Fixed asset investments	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
At 31 January 2008	131,610,347	137,361,950	138,754,313	138,661,882
Financial liabilities				
Fixed rate secured bonds	70,590,080	77,080,916	79,808,946	79,757,891
Secured bank term loan	60,970,267	60,231,034	58,895,367	58,853,931
At 31 January 2008	131,560,347	137,311,950	138,704,313	138,611,822

The fair value of the loans to fellow subsidiary undertakings is based on the market value of similar debt instruments at 31 January 2008. The terms of the loans to fellow subsidiaries are fixed therefore no adjustment has been made to reduce the book value to fair value. The cost of the fixed asset investments approximates fair value.

The fair value of the fixed rate secured bond is based on its market value at 31 January 2008. The secured bank term loan's fair value is based on cash flows discounted using a rate based on borrowings of 4.946% (2007 5.059%). The terms of both the loan and the bond are fixed therefore no adjustment has been made to reduce the book value to fair value.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

7 Financial instruments (continued)

Capital risk management

The Company's objective when managing capital is to safeguard the group's ability to continue as a going concern in order to provide returns for shareholders and benefits for other stakeholders. The Company is highly geared, consistent with similarly structured PFI investment companies. The risk of interruption of cash inflows by the Company (which are required to repay the debt) is low due to these ultimately being receivable from the public sector. The gearing ratios at 31 January 2008 and 31 January 2007 were as follows

	2008 £	2007 £
Net debt (total borrowings)	138,704,313	138,611,822
Total equity	50,000	50,000
Total capital	<u>138,754,313</u>	<u>138,661,822</u>
Gearing ratio	<u>99%</u>	<u>99%</u>

The Company has complied with all externally imposed capital requirements during the year

8 Called up share capital

	2008 £	2007 £
Authorised		
50,000 ordinary shares of £1 each	<u>50,000</u>	<u>50,000</u>
Allotted, issued and fully paid		
50,000 ordinary shares of £1 each	<u>50,000</u>	<u>50,000</u>

9 Reconciliation of movement in shareholders' funds

	2008 £	2007 £
Opening shareholders' funds	50,000	2
Issue of equity shares	–	49,998
Result for the financial year	–	–
Closing shareholders' funds	<u>50,000</u>	<u>50,000</u>

There has been no movement in shareholders' funds during the year

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

10 Related party transactions

Alpha Schools (Highland) Project Plc has issued £81,405,210 bonds and borrowed £60,000,000 from the European Investment Bank. These funds have been on-loaned, less debt issue costs, to Alpha Schools (Highland) Limited. The amounts outstanding at the year end from Alpha Schools (Highland) Limited in respect of the bonds was £79,808,946 (2007 £79,757,891) and in respect of the European Investment Bank loan was £58,895,367 (2007 £58,853,931).

The relationship between Alpha Schools (Highland) Project Plc and Alpha Schools (Highland) Limited is described in the Report of the Directors.

11 Ultimate parent undertaking

The Company is a wholly owned subsidiary of Alpha Schools (Highland) Holdings Limited which is incorporated in Great Britain and registered in England and Wales. Copies of Alpha Schools (Highland) Holdings Limited consolidated financial statements can be obtained from the Company Secretary at Cowley Business Park, High Street, Cowley, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 2AL.

One ordinary share is held by Morrison Education (Highland) Limited which is incorporated in Great Britain and registered in England and Wales. The Directors consider the ultimate controlling parties to be Galliford Try Plc, Noble Group Holdings Limited and 3i Infrastructure Limited.