

Sharnbrook Primary

(A company limited by guarantee)

Financial Statements

For the year ended

31 August 2025

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SHARNBROOK PRIMARY

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

MEMBERS:	Mrs R L Corbett Mrs H E Pryde Mr P Leinster (from 1 st September 2024)
TRUSTEES	Mr M Swan (Chairperson) * Rev'd P Di Leo Mrs R Corbett * (resigned 6 th May 2025) Miss H Bennett (Principal and accounting officer) * Mrs M Headley (resigned 1 st January 2025) Mrs C Townsend (resigned 1 st September 2024) Mrs H Pryde (resigned 4 February 2025) Mr E Poulter * Mrs M Raza Mr J Stonebridge Mrs S Swan (from 25 th March 2025) Ms M Prokopova (from 13 th January 2025) Ms M Tabiner (from 1 st March 2025)

* Members of the finance committee

All Trustees are members of Resources & Curriculum Committees

COMPANY SECRETARY	S Oakley
KEY MANAGEMENT	H Bennett (Head Teacher) A Keating (Chief Financial Officer) E Wildman (Leadership) M Headley (Leadership)
COMPANY NAME	Sharnbrook Primary
REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER	08370592 (England and Wales)
PRINCIPLE AND REGISTERED OFFICE	37 High Street Sharnbrook Bedford Bedfordshire MK44 1PF
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS	Hazlewoods LLP Staverton Court Staverton Cheltenham GL51 0UX
BANKERS	Natwest Bank 81 High Street Bedford MK40 1YN

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st August 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) and the Academies Accounts Direction issued by the Department for Education.

The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report and a directors' report under company law.

The trust operates an academy for pupils aged 4 to 11 serving a catchment area of Sharnbrook Primary. It has a pupil total of 237 plus 58 for Pre-School and a roll of 227 on the school census in May 2025. We became a Primary School on 1st September 2017.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Our primary objective is to provide the best education we can for the children we serve. The main objectives of the Academy of the year ending August 2025 can be summarised below:

- To ensure that every child enjoys the same high quality education in terms of resourcing, tuition and care;
- To raise the standard of educational achievement of all pupils;
- To improve the effectiveness of the Academy by keeping the curriculum and organisational structure under continual review;
- To provide value for money for the funds expended;
- To further improve communication and develop practices which support parental involvement further;
- To enrich the curriculum with extra curricular activities;
- To develop strong links within the local and wider community;
- To comply with all appropriate statutory and curriculum requirements;

To conduct the Academy's business in accordance with the highest standards of integrity, probity and openness.

Objective, Strategies and Activities

We have a strategic plan which is monitored throughout the year; regular progress and obstacles to success are reported and evaluated upon, and actions taken. Trustees actively monitor aspects of the plan and triangulate the judgements on progress. As a school our plan focuses on standards in both outcomes for the pupils but also on the standards for the learning environment in which these activities are carried out. The success of this strategic plan is assessed and new priorities agreed upon on an annual basis with consideration given to data, pupil need and input from stakeholders.

School focus for 2024/2025

Our School Development Plan is aligned to the four areas of the Ofsted Inspection Framework: Quality of Education, Behaviour and Attitudes, Personal Development, Leadership and Management. We also have an additional focus on Early Years. Within these areas, our focuses are as follows:

- Mathematical thinking and complex problem solving
- Reading, Spelling and Writing;
- Phonics;
- Stretching pupils to achieve Greater Depth;
- Relationships and Health Education;
- SEND and mental health;
- Safeguarding;
- Good or better Governance and compliance with financial regulation.

We have assessed the needs of our children and identified and delivered interventions as required. We are continuing with a quality first teaching approach so that all children reach their potential, ensuring we delivering a broad and balanced curriculum. We have also focussed on wellbeing and resilience to ensure that the children feel safe and secure in the learning environment, employing a mental health lead to support this.

Public benefit

The Governors confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the Charity Commissioner's general guidance on public benefit in exercising their powers or duties. They have referred to this guidance when reviewing the academy's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities. The Academy Trust promotes education for the benefit of the local community of Sharnbrook and offers recreational facilities to a variety of local community groups outside of School hours for the benefit of the general public. Community based projects are also undertaken throughout the year by staff and students which further enhances the public benefit.

The children who attend our school receive an outstanding education academically. In addition, in terms of educating the whole child, we can assert that our Values Education and our Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural education programmes are also outstanding. Relationships Education is delivered through our Personal, Social and Health Education programme.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Fundraising activities

We provide free use of our facilities by the community, last year this was only Fun Dad's on the first Saturday of the month but we are always happy to assist local clubs.

We have a PTA which fund-raises for the school both within the school and the community. The parents, and the staff are asked what funds should be raised for; the focus is agreed by the 'PTA' and subsequently funds are raised. Currently this is to fund a sensory space within the school.

Fundraising is done by the staff and pupils in conjunction with the parents where we raise money to donate to other charities e.g. Children in Need.

The academy trust does not use any external fundraisers outside the PTA. All fundraising undertaken during the year was monitored by the Trustees.

Key financial performance indicators

The Academy Trust uses a number of financial key performance indicators to monitor financial success of the Academy Trust and progress/improvement against the targets set.

Staffing costs are monitored as a percentage of total income, this excludes any local government pension scheme adjustments. For the year ended 31 August 2025 staffing costs amounted to 83.7% of non capital income (2024: 77.3%).

The Academy Trust also monitors its operating surplus or deficit, (excluding restricted fixed assets/depreciation and actuarial adjustments) as a percentage of total income. For the year ended 31 August 2025 the operating deficit equated to 5.3% of non capital income (2024: 4.6%).

The Academy Trust also uses a number of non financial key performance indicators to monitor its performance. These include student attendance rates: for the year ended 31 August 2025 student attendance was 95.48%.

Sports premium

In addition to the purchase of new equipment, entry into sporting competitions and training for staff on new sports being introduced the sports premium is spent on catch up swimming. This is done by hiring a pool that is set up on the school site once every four years. This ensures that children can complete their catch-up sessions at school. The funding for this is divided and split across four years of sports premium. In addition, we have a sports specialist. Part of their salary is paid for from sports premium. This is the leadership time given to train staff and advance sports. It is not used to pay for their daily teaching hours.

Reserves

Sharnbrook Primary have submitted a CIF bid application of which we would need to contribute £24,000 from our reserves to fund this if we are successful. The bid is for remedial works to ensure the upkeep of the school is maintained and that safeguarding and compliance is met. If the bid is unsuccessful then we will use the £24,000 to update the automatic gates as they are urgently requiring upgrading. Our reserves will also be used to convert the ICT suite to create a sensory area for the children to use and also for general upkeep of the school. Reserves are also to fund future deficits.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

Since the pandemic we have seen a shift within our parent body with more parents having the flexibility to work from home. We have monitored the demand for before school clubs, after school clubs and Pre-School and continue to manage the pupil/staff ratio accordingly. In 2024 we reviewed the profitability of our extended school provision, including preschool, to ensure that we are financially sustainable. We increased the price so that we were in line with government early years funding (Preschool) and neighbouring schools (wrap around care).

Principal funding sources

Most of the Academy's income is obtained from the DfE in the form of recurrent grants disbursed via the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), (from 31st March 2025 this is now received directly from the DfE) the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. Other sources of funding include, Bedford Borough, Before and After school Club, Pre-School and clubs held after school. We are also reliant on grants but by very nature of the term 'grant', they are essentially temporary.

Investment policy and objectives

Our priority is to maximise returns, with no capital risk. We continue to fund the needs of our vulnerable children prior to higher needs funding being secured and paid to us retrospectively; this is not guaranteed.

Reserves policy

Our main priority is to provide the children with the best, most well-resourced experience we can. All the spending is planned and targeted to meet our needs in line with our School Priorities. We maintain a reserve at the percentage permitted. As our budget is small this percentage is also small. We see our reserve as being there for unforeseen circumstances, break downs etc. but if no such unforeseen expense arises, we see it as saving for more expensive targeted purchasing. We would like to be able to save more for specific projects if we could afford to.

At 31 August 2025, the academy had total reserves of £3,080,796 of which £2,710,238 is restricted.

The balance relating to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) has assets of £1,066,000 and liabilities of £761,000 with a pension asset of £305,000, restricted to £Nil in line with last year (2024: £Nil)

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Board of Trustees has a reasonable expectation that the Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future as long as we are careful as staffing costs beyond our control are rising. For this reason, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Statement of Accounting Policies.

FUTURE PLANS

With the expansion of the village we are in discussions about what education will look like for the new children. The possible options are a two form, split site primary school or two single form primary schools. As part of our future planning we have opened discussions with local councillors and are researching the benefits and disadvantages of options and we hope to conclude these discussion within the next 6 months

The school had an OFSTED review in Spring 2024 and is now graded as good (from requires improvement) with two areas being classed as outstanding. Going forward Sharnbrook Primary plans to embed the recommendations and support other schools in areas where we have particular expertise.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution

The Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the Academy Trust. The Trustees of Sharnbrook Primary are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as Sharnbrook Primary.

Details of the Trustees who served during the year are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

Members' liability

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

Trustees' Indemnities

There are no qualifying indemnity provisions in force for the benefit of one or more directors of the charitable company.

Principal activities

The principal activities of the Sharnbrook Primary Academy Trust are to manage and develop a school and its environment in order to educate children from 4 to 11 years in a broad and balanced curriculum, including our Pre-School Children. The school is at the heart of the community, working with other schools and sharing our facilities with the wider community. The school will follow local and national arrangements for the assessment of pupils and these will be reported to the local authority so that standards at the school can be measured against others.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

We recruit from the parent body of the school and from stakeholders in the wider community. We require the completion of an application form for all positions. In the case of over subscription for parent positions we hold a ballot and allow the parents to elect the parent Trustee. In the case of 'co-opted' positions, the governing body decides based on the merit of the applications. Our recruitment strategy includes presentations at prospective parents' evenings, advertising in the local Parish magazine, writing to parents and publishing on our Facebook page. When advertising in writing we include clear specifications as to which committee/role we are recruiting for, the time commitment required, and we include a brief Role Description.

We will comply with the requirements of the Education regulations in relation to carrying out enhanced criminal records checks (DBS) in relation to the recruitment and appointment of new Trustees.

Organisational structure

The Governors are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual plan and budget, monitoring the Academy by use of budgets and making major decisions about the direction of the Academy, capital expenditure and senior staff appointments. The Governors establish an overall framework for the governance of the academy and determines membership, terms of reference and procedures. There are 3 foci for the meetings: Strategic, Curriculum and Resources. The Chair of Governors chairs the FGB meetings which alternately cover either strategic or curriculum and resources. As of March 2024, a separate Finance Committee has been established to ensure closer scrutiny of the Trusts financial and risk management. This committee is chaired by the Vice Chair of Governors.

The Academy Management Team comprises a Core Leadership Team comprised of the Head Teacher, two Assistant Head Teachers and Chairman of Directors/Governors. The board of governors has devolved responsibility for day to day management of the academy to the Senior Leadership Team. The Principal is the Accounting Officer.

Induction and training of new trustees

New Trustees are given an Induction pack and a guided tour of the school in the daytime to see us in action, In-house training is provided, and external training is purchased which includes online and face to face courses. The Chair and Vice Chair have acted as mentors. We have had 3 new governors who joined in the 2024/25 academic year.

Key management remuneration

The school has a pay and conditions policy which is reviewed annually. Progression on the pay scale is via Head teacher recommendation to the staff pay committee or in the case of the Head teacher by the Governors who carry out the Head teacher appraisal and who also recommend any uplift to the staff pay committee.

Pay rises are set yearly on the basis of performance, budgets and school development plan.

Related parties

The Academy's pecuniary interest forms report the following related parties:

- Mrs M Headley by virtue of her husband working for Bedford Borough Finance team;
- Mrs S Leach and Mr O Leach, husband/father works for Hillary's;
- Mrs K Mizon, husband has provided school with First Aid training;
- Mrs S Smart, husband sub contracts for Method Air Conditioning company that maintains our cooling system on site.

Additionally, the Academy networks with all schools in Bedford Borough through a professional organisation, Bedford Borough Learning Exchange (BBLE). Within this group there is a well-established Head teacher primary net working group. In addition, the school networks with Head teachers in North Bedfordshire (17 schools in total) network.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

Our financial controls are rigorous and we comply with financial regulations as dictated by the DfE and Academy Trust Handbook. We have a 'scheme of delegation' and 'division of duties' protocols. We have a system for managing income, charging and debt collection. Trustees monitoring these practices monthly with the School Business Manager and at Committee meetings.

We have policies for Continuity of Business and Disaster Recovery as well as a risk register and practices to cover the day to day risks involved.

STREAMLINED ENERGY AND CARBON REPORTING

As the trust has not consumed more than 40,000 kWh of energy in this reporting period, it qualifies as a low energy user under these regulations and is not required to report on its emissions, energy consumption or energy efficiency activities.

FINANCIAL AND RISK MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

Income based on numbers on roll. The income streams fall into two categories:

- Early years funding for pre-statutory aged children;
- Age weight pupil unit (AWPU) funding for statutory aged children.

We also rely upon income from Before School Club, After School Club and additional early years' sessions over and above the government funded hours; the demand for this is variable year by year.

Our school has an excellent reputation, which we work hard to maintain. The standards are high and the enrichment activities varied. The children are happy and the parents are confident. We also offer additional wrap around service to parents by providing both Before School and After School Clubs for their children. We work to maintain these standards so that parents will want to send their children to us and by doing so secure the income we need to be viable and meet our business plan objectives.

The Pre-School is our most vulnerable area; whilst the numbers have been consistently high again this year, we continue to monitor it closely. We manage our outgoings effectively. Staff here have a core number of contract hours per week and as the numbers of pupils increase so do their hours. Time sheets are submitted having been signed off by the manager/teacher in every event.

We employ teachers for each class. We employ teaching assistants on part time contracts. In a new situation we offer fixed term contracts in the first instance.

We have policies and risk assessments in place.

PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The principal risks and uncertainties facing the academy are as follows:

Financial - the academy has considerable reliance on continued Government funding through the DfE. There is no assurance that Government policy or practice will remain the same or that public funding will continue at the same level or on the same terms.

Reputational - the continuing success of the academy is dependent on continuing to attract applicants in sufficient numbers by maintaining the highest educational standards. To mitigate this risk Governors ensure that student success and achievement are closely monitored and reviewed.

Safeguarding and child protection - the Governors continue to ensure that the highest standards are maintained in the areas of selection and monitoring of staff, the operation of child protection policies and procedures, health and safety and discipline.

Fraud and mismanagement of funds - The Governors have assessed the major risks to which the academy is exposed and have formulated a Risk Register. The register is regularly reviewed in light of any new information and formally reviewed annually.

DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO THE AUDITORS

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

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

This report incorporating the Strategic Report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, on.....and signed on the Board's behalf by:

.....
M Swan
Chair of Trustees

Scope of Responsibility

As trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Sharnbrook Primary has an effective and appropriate system of control, financial and otherwise. However such a system is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives, and can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement of loss.

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

The board of trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Principal, as accounting officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Sharnbrook Primary and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Review of Value for Money

As Accounting Officer, the Head Teacher has responsibility for ensuring that the Academy Trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The Accounting Officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

The Accounting Officer considers how the Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the board of Trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where available. The Accounting Officer for the Academy Trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by improving educational results by:

Improving educational results

- Our diverse curriculum ensures all pupils have the opportunity to raise their individual levels of attainment
- We regularly review the staffing structure to ensure staff are efficiently deployed. This relates to teaching and nonteaching.
- We bring in additional staff to target key curriculum SDP targets, such as providing extra staffing in certain year groups.
- We also provide targeted support for students as appropriate, such as homework club and additional tuition.
- We focus on the differing needs of every individual pupil. This is reflected in the outcomes for G&T and FSM pupils.
- We have good tracking systems to record all aspects of student data including progress through school and to ensure that interventions and support are targeted to achieve Value for Money.
- We have produced good outcomes for our students, significantly exceeding national results in the majority of areas. Pupil Premium and NTP monies have been allocated to effect, as illustrated by the detailed breakdown on the academy website.

Financial Performance

- Financial governance and oversight is strong
- Management accounts are prepared and issued monthly, to enable regular monitoring to ensure Value for Money.
- Spending proposals are costed and presented to Senior leaders / Governors and then challenged appropriately.
- Regular budget updates are provided, including 3 year projections, which enables both short and long term budget decisions to be made appropriately.
- All contracts are reviewed on an annual or set period basis to ensure that they are still fit for purpose and best value for our school.
- School spend is benchmarked against other Academies and areas where we significantly over or under spend have been thoroughly investigated and assurances provided that the spend is appropriate to our school.
- The academy ensures that tenders/quotes are obtained as appropriate to ensure Value for Money with all major projects.
- Cash flow forecasts are used to identify and invest surplus cash balances to maximise bank interest receivable.

SHARNBROOK PRIMARY

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

The Academy continues to buy-in some services from Bedford Borough to ensure it benefits from economies of scale e.g. HR, payroll services, Governor Services and School Improvement. This is called 'Bedford Borough Traded Services'.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Report of the Trustees and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The board of trustees has formally met 11 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of trustees was as follows:

	Full Govern ing Board	Finance committ tee	Financ e commi ttee	Resourc es/Curric ulum committ ee	Full Govern ing Board	Finance committ ee	Resourc es/curric ulum committ ee	Finance committ ee	Full Govern ing Board	Finance committ ee	Resourc es/curric ulum committ ee
x = present o=absent	30th Septem ber 2024	27th Septem ber 2024	22nd Nove mber 2024	26th Novemb er 2024	27th January 2025	21st March 2025	25th March 2025	16th May 2025	19th May 2025	11th July 2025	8th July 2025
Matt Swan	x	x	x	x	x	x	o	x	x	x	x
Rebecca Corbett	o	x	x	x	x	x	x	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Ted Poulter	o	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	o	x	x
Michelle Raza	x	n/a	n/a	x	x	n/a	x	n/a	x	n/a	x
James Stonebridge	o	n/a	n/a	x	x	n/a	x	n/a	x	n/a	x
Revd Paolo di Leo	x	n/a	n/a	o	x	n/a	o	n/a	o	n/a	x
Hannah Bennett	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Meshelle Headley	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	n/a	x	n/a	x
Maria Prokopova	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Melody Tabiner	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	o	n/a	x	n/a	x	n/a	x
Shirine Swan	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	x	n/a	x

The activities of the academy are controlled by the trustees and by committees constituted by the trustees, those committees include:-

- FGB Resources / Curriculum
- FGB Strategic
- Finance Committee

Governors who are not trustees are co-opted onto these committees to ensure that each of the committees is representative of the governing body and of the skills sets required.

The Finance committees purpose is to establish and control the financial regularity, propriety and compliance of the academy with regard to the rules outlined by the EFA and with the internal finance manual of the academy.

New Initiatives

We would like to create additional learning spaces for small group work to provide a better environment for pupils requiring interventions.

The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of charitable company policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Sharnbrook Primary for the period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Reviewing controls and managing risk

The Finance committee regularly monitors the school budget and monthly reports are monitored the Headteacher and the School Business Manager. The School has a financial checklist which is used by members of the FGB to monitor systems. Governors also ensure that the school operates within the Financial Regulations set out in the Academies Financial Handbook. All major purchases above £10,000 are reviewed to ensure best value and we receive 3 quotes. Benchmarking is also used as an indicator.

Our system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information and administrative procedures including the segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability.

Governors ensure adequate insurance cover is in place; from 1st April 2015 this followed the Government recommended scheme for Academies.

Fitness for purpose

Contracts are reviewed towards the end of each contract period or earlier if there is opportunity. In the evaluation we consider whether the product is still required and, if so, whether the quality meets the Academy's needs and if it represents good value for money.

Benchmarking

We have undertaken a CFR Benchmarking exercise. School Performance data is moderated with other professionals within the Borough to ensure robust judgements are in place.

Capacity to Handle Risk

The board of trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the charitable company is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the charitable company's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1st September 2024 to 31st August 2025 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of trustees.

The Risk and Control Framework

The Academy Trust's system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information and administrative procedures including the segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability. In particular it includes:

- Comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the board of Trustees;
- Regular reviews by the finance committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- Setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- Clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- Delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- Identification and management of risks.

The Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function, following feedback from the ESFA (2024)

- A new risk assessment has been adopted by the Governing Body and this will be completed at every finance meeting.
- In addition, new external auditors have been appointed to ensure robust checks are in place.
- A new bursar has been appointed
- School business Services (SBS) have been appointed to provide guidance to the new bursar
- A mentor will be provided by the ESFA for the new bursar

During the year, the academy had a programme of internal scrutiny this covered areas such as procurement and financial procedures, this was carried out by a trustee who is suitably qualified.

REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS

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

- the work of the Finance Committee;
- the work of the external auditors;
- the work of the executive managers within the Academy who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

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

CONCLUSION

Based on the advice of the finance committee and the accounting officer, the board of trustees is of the opinion that the academy trust has an adequate and effective framework for governance, risk management and control.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on.....and signed on its behalf, by:

.....
M Swan
Chair of Trustees

.....
H Bennett
Headteacher and Accounting Officer

SHARNBROOK PRIMARY

STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

As Accounting Officer of Sharnbrook Primary, I confirm that I have had due regard to the framework of authorities governing regularity, propriety and compliance, including the trust's funding agreement with DfE, and the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook, including responsibilities for estates safety and management. I have also considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust board of trustees and DfE of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management.

I confirm that I, and the Academy board of trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the academy trust, or material non-compliance with the framework of authorities.

I confirm that no instances of material irregularity, impropriety or non-compliance have been discovered to date. If any instances are identified after the date of this statement, these will be notified to the board of trustees and DfE.

.....
H Bennett
Headteacher and Accounting Officer

.....
Date

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

The trustees (who are also the directors of Sharnbrook Primary for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction published by the Department for Education, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS102) and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

The trustees are responsible for ensuring that in its conduct and operation the charitable company applies financial and other controls which conform with the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring grants received from the Education & Skills Funding Agency and Department for Education have been applied for the purposes intended.

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on.....and signed on its behalf by:

.....
M Swan
Chair of Trustees

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Sharnbrook Primary for the year ended 31 August 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland*, the Charities SORP (FRS102) and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by the Department for Education.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the academy trust's affairs as at 31 August 2025, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP (FRS102) and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the academy trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

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

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the academy trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report and the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

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

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks applicable to the company financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of the company. We determined that the most significant laws and regulations included Academies Accounts Direction 2024 – 2025, UKGAAP, UK Companies Act 2006 and taxation laws;
- We assessed the susceptibility of the company's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included challenging assumptions and judgments made by management in its significant accounting estimates and identifying and testing journal entries, in particular any journal entries posted with unusual characteristics.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SHARNBROOK PRIMARY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the 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 academy trust's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' 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 academy trust'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 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 academy trust to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance 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.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the academy trust's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the academy trust's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the academy trust and the academy trust's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

.....
Felicity Sang (Senior Statutory Auditor)

.....
Date

For and on behalf of Hazlewoods LLP

**Staverton Court
Cheltenham
GL51 0UX**

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE GOVERNING BODY OF SHARNBROOK PRIMARY AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 18 July 2025 and further to the requirements of the Department for Education (DfE), as included in the extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether anything has come to our attention that would suggest, in all material respects, the expenditure disbursed and income received by Sharnbrook Primary during the period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 have not been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them

This report is made solely to Sharnbrook Primary and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Sharnbrook Primary and the Secretary of State for Education those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Sharnbrook Primary and the Secretary of State for Education, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF SHARNBROOK PRIMARY'S ACCOUNTING OFFICER AND THE REPORTING ACCOUNTANT

The Accounting and Pupil & Parents Officer is responsible, under the requirements of Sharnbrook Primary's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education and the Academy Trust Handbook for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 have not been applied for the purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

APPROACH

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts issued by DfE, which requires a limited assurance engagement as set out in our engagement letter.

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

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

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

In this regard we have carried out the following:

- specific testing of a sample of items of income and expenditure to ensure appropriately applied for the purposes intended;
- specific testing of a sample of system controls relevant to the above items;
- a general review of relevant correspondence with the DfE regarding Academy governance matters during the year; and
- a general review and discussion of the Academy's internal procedures for establishing and maintaining systems of control and documentation regarding these matters.

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE GOVERNING BODY
OF SHARNBROOK PRIMARY AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

CONCLUSION

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 has not been applied for the purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

.....
Felicity Sang (Reporting Accountant)

.....
Date

For and on behalf of Hazlewoods LLP

**Staverton Court
Cheltenham
GL51 0UX**

SHARNBROOK PRIMARY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (Including Income and Expenditure Account) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Restricted Fixed Assets Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
INCOME AND						
ENDOWMENTS FROM:						
Charitable activities:						
Donations and capital grants	3	150	-	12,989	13,139	1,739
Funding for the Academy's educational operations	4	-	1,283,712	-	1,283,712	1,185,738
Other trading activities	5	68,700	10,978	-	79,678	72,429
Investment income	6	1,450	-	-	1,450	1,993
Other income		-	-	-	-	1,440
TOTAL		70,300	1,294,690	12,989	1,377,979	1,263,339
EXPENDITURE FROM:						
Charitable activities:						
Academy's educational operations	7,8	71,915	1,298,101	81,587	1,451,603	1,321,388
TOTAL		71,915	1,298,101	81,587	1,451,603	1,321,388
NET EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR		(1,615)	(3,412)	(68,598)	(73,624)	(58,049)
Transfer between funds	17	-	-	-	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial (losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	26	-	(11,000)	-	(11,000)	(7,000)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(1,615)	(14,412)	(68,598)	(84,624)	(65,049)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
Total funds brought forward	17	372,173	66,805	2,726,442	3,165,420	3,230,469
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	17	370,558	52,394	2,657,844	3,080,796	3,165,420

All Activities relate to continuing operations.

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 22 to 40 form part of these financial statements.

SHARNBROOK PRIMARY

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025

Registration Number 08370592

			2025	2024
	Note	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible assets	12		2,651,309	2,726,443
CURRENT ASSETS				
Stocks	13	493		629
Debtors	14	33,682		17,042
Cash at bank and in hand	23	435,722		494,693
		<u>469,897</u>		<u>512,364</u>
CREDITORS				
Amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>(39,263)</u>		<u>(69,947)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS			430,634	442,417
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			<u>3,081,943</u>	<u>3,168,859</u>
Amounts falling due after more than one year	16	(1,147)		(3,440)
PENSION LIABILITY	26	-		-
TOTAL NET ASSETS			<u><u>3,080,796</u></u>	<u><u>3,165,420</u></u>
FUNDS OF THE ACADEMY:				
Restricted funds				
Restricted fixed asset fund	17	2,657,844		2,726,443
Restricted general fund	17	52,394		66,804
Pension reserve	15,26	<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>
			2,710,238	2,793,247
Unrestricted funds:				
General fund	17	370,558		372,173
TOTAL FUNDS			<u><u>3,080,796</u></u>	<u><u>3,165,420</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue onand are signed on their behalf by:

.....
M Swan
Trustee

SHARNBROOK PRIMARY**CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	20	(64,664)	36,785
Cash flows from investing activities	22	7,986	(7,831)
Cash flows from financing activities	21	(2,293)	(2,293)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		<u>(58,971)</u>	<u>26,661</u>
Cash and cash equivalent at the beginning of the reporting period		494,693	468,032
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u>435,722</u>	<u>494,693</u>

1 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A summary of the principal accounting policies adopted (which have been applied consistently, except where noted), judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty, is set out below.

Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements

The financial statements of the academy trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by DfE, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

Going Concern

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

Income

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

Grants receivable

Grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of meeting any performance related conditions, there is not unconditional entitlement to the income and its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income until the performance-related conditions are met. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the period is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

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

Sponsorship income

Sponsorship income provided to the academy trust which amounts to a donation is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which it is receivable (where there are no performance-related conditions), where the receipt is probable and it can be measured reliably.

Donations

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

Other income

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

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Donated goods, facilities and services

Goods donated for resale are included at fair value, being the expected proceeds from sale less the expected costs of sale. If it is practical to assess the fair value at receipt, it is recognised in stock and 'Income from other trading activities'. Upon sale, the value of the stock is charged against 'Income from other trading activities' and the proceeds are recognised as 'Income from other trading activities'. Where it is impractical to fair value the items due to the volume of low value items, they are not recognised in the financial statements until they are sold. This income is recognised within 'Income from other trading activities'.

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

Freehold Buildings

The Academy owns the property it operates from. The valuation of the Freehold Buildings was considered by the Trustees on conversion to Academy and was included at what they considered a reasonable estimate of the current market value. Note 12 refers.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Raising funds

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

Charitable activities

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

All assets costing more than £1,000 are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the Balance Sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. The related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities and carried forward in the Balance Sheet. Depreciation on such assets is charged to the restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities so as to reduce the fund over the useful economic life of the related asset on a basis consistent with the Academy's depreciation policy. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold Land, Buildings and Improvements	-	1% - 10% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	-	10% - 20% on cost
Computer equipment	-	20% on cost

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use and reclassified to freehold or leasehold land and buildings.

A review for impairment of a fixed asset is carried out if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of any fixed asset may not be recoverable. Shortfalls between the carrying value of fixed assets and their recoverable amounts are recognised as impairments. Impairment losses are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Liabilities

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

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the academy trust has an obligation at the reporting date as a result of a past event which it is probable will result in the transfer of economic benefits and the obligation can be estimated reliably.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised within interest payable and similar charges.

Financial Instruments

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

Financial assets – trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at transaction price as all are payable on demand as detailed in note 12. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

Cash at bank – is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

Financial liabilities – trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in notes 15 and 16. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

Stock

Unsold uniforms and catering stocks are valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

Taxation

The Academy is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Academy is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Pensions Benefits

Retirement benefits to employees of the Academy are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme ('TPS') and the Local Government Pension Scheme ('LGPS'). These are defined benefit schemes, are contracted out of the State Earnings-Related Pension Scheme ('SERPS'), and the assets are held separately from those of the Academy.

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the Academy in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quinquennial valuations using a prospective benefit method. As stated in Note 26, the TPS is a multi-employer scheme and the Academy is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis. The TPS is therefore treated as a defined contribution scheme and the contributions recognised as they are paid each year.

The LGPS is a funded scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the Academy in separate Trustees administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and gains and losses on settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs. Past service costs are recognised immediately in the Statement of Financial Activities if the benefits have vested. If the benefits have not vested immediately, the costs are recognised over the period until vesting occurs. The expected return on assets and the interest cost are shown as a net finance amount of other finance costs or credits adjacent to interest. Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other gains and losses.

Where a pension reserve shows a net surplus, as the Academy has no unconditional right to a refund from the LGPS, the value of the surplus that can be recognised as an asset is limited to the "asset ceiling". This is the present value of any benefit in the form of reductions in future contributions.

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

Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses.

Fund Accounting

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

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

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

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The Governors do not consider that they have made any critical judgements apart from those involving estimation in the preparation of the financial statements.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 26, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability.

As per the actuary's schedule of results for the Local Government Pension Scheme, the total market value of assets exceeds the present value of the scheme liabilities. The actuary's schedule of results valued the pension scheme in an asset position at the year end, however as this asset is unlikely to be realised, it has been reduced to Nil by an asset ceiling adjustment. Significant judgement was used to restrict the surplus using an asset ceiling adjustment as the entity will not be able to recover this surplus in the future.

Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2025. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

2 GENERAL ANNUAL GRANT (GAG)

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the academy trust was subject to limits at 31 August 2025 on the amount of GAG that could be carried forward from one year to the next. An amount equal to 12% of GAG could be carried forward, of which up to 2% could be used for general recurrent purposes, with any balance being available for premises/capital purposes.

The academy trust has exceeded these limits during the year ended 31 August 2025.

3 DONATIONS AND CAPITAL GRANTS

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Capital grants	12,989	-	12,989	-
Donations	150	-	150	1,739
	<u>13,139</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,139</u>	<u>1,739</u>

Capital grants in 2024 were £Nil. Donations of £1,739 were entirely restricted funds.

4 FUNDING FOR ACADEMY'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
DfE/ESFA revenue grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	995,057	995,057	892,200
<u>Other DfE/ESFA grants</u>				
- Pupil premium	-	41,755	41,755	41,637
- Supplementary grant	-	-	-	-
- UIFSM	-	27,697	27,697	31,982
- Recovery premium	-	-	-	4,096
- PE and sports premium	-	9,151	9,151	19,449
- Mainstream additional grant	-	-	-	31,712
- National Tutoring	-	-	-	1,620
- Teachers pay additional grant	-	24,048	24,048	9,562
- Rates relief	-	28,863	28,863	-
- Other DfE grants	-	14,548	14,548	8,500
	-	1,141,119	1,141,119	1,040,758
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	37,085	37,085	25,222
Early years	-	105,508	105,508	89,059
	-	142,593	142,593	114,281
Other income from the academy's educational operations				
	-	-	-	30,699
	-	1,283,712	1,283,712	1,185,738

Funding for the Academy's educational operations in 2024 was £1,185,738 all of which was restricted funds.

5 OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Fundraising events	-	-	-	1,587
Before and after school club	57,243	-	57,243	56,515
Pre-school income	10,567	-	10,567	13,991
Uniform sales	225	-	225	235
Contributions to visits	-	10,978	10,978	-
Hire of facilities	665	-	665	-
	68,700	10,978	79,678	72,429

Income from other trading activities in 2024 was £72,429, of which £70,482 was unrestricted funds.

6 INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Deposit account interest	<u>1,450</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,450</u>	<u>1,993</u>

Income from investment income in 2024 was £1,993 which was entirely unrestricted funds.

7 EXPENDITURE

	Staff costs	Non-Pay Expenditure		Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	Premises £	Other costs £	£	£
Charitable activities					
Direct costs	946,361	-	115,629	1,061,990	984,202
Allocated support costs	196,154	121,344	72,115	389,613	337,186
	<u>1,142,515</u>	<u>121,344</u>	<u>187,744</u>	<u>1,451,603</u>	<u>1,321,388</u>

Net expenditure for the period includes:

	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£
Auditor's remuneration	6,510	6,200
Other non-audit services	5,250	5,000
Depreciation – owned assets	<u>81,587</u>	<u>81,704</u>

8 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES – ACADEMY’S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Direct costs	52,780	1,009,210	1,061,990	984,202
Support costs	19,135	370,478	389,613	337,186
	<u>71,915</u>	<u>1,379,688</u>	<u>1,451,603</u>	<u>1,321,388</u>

Analysis of direct costs	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Staff costs	946,361	852,109
Other direct costs	115,629	132,093
	<u>1,061,990</u>	<u>984,202</u>

Analysis of support costs		
Support staff costs	196,154	125,058
Depreciation	81,587	81,704
Technology costs	5,822	3,328
Premises costs	39,757	51,282
Other support costs	54,533	64,614
Governance costs	11,760	11,200
	<u>389,613</u>	<u>337,186</u>

9 STAFF COSTS**a. Staff costs**

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	865,078	742,594
Social security costs	72,156	62,414
Operating costs of defined benefit pension scheme	216,281	180,394
Pension cost	(11,000)	(9,000)
	<u>1,142,515</u>	<u>976,402</u>

b. Staff numbers

The average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the Academy during the year was as follows:

	2025 No.	2024 No.
Teachers	8	11
Administration and support	27	22
Management	3	3
	<u>38</u>	<u>36</u>

9 STAFF (continued)**c. Higher paid staff**

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	2025 No.	2024 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	1	-
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	-	1

d. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy was £281,776 (2024: £273,659).

10 TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

One or more trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from employment with the academy trust. The Head Teacher and other staff trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of Head Teacher and staff members under their contracts of employment.

The value of trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

H Bennett (Head Teacher and trustee)

Remuneration £65,000 - £70,000 (2024: £75,000 - £80,000)

Employer's pension contributions paid £20,000 - £25,000 (2024: £20,000 - £25,000)

M Headley (staff trustee)

Remuneration £50,000 - £55,000 (2024: £45,000 - £50,000)

Employer's pension contributions paid £15,000 - £20,000 (2024: £10,000 - £15,000)

During the period 31 August 2025, travel and subsistence expenses of £Nil were reimbursed to Trustees (2024: £Nil).

11 TRUSTEES' AND OFFICERS' INSURANCE

In accordance with normal commercial practice the Academy has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and Officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy trust business. The insurance provides unlimited cover (2024: unlimited cover) on any one claim. The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost and relates to a multiple-line policy provided by the DfE.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**12 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Freehold Land, Buildings & Improvements £	Computer Equipment £	Fixtures and Fittings £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 September 2024	2,992,355	143,931	388,784	3,525,070
Additions	243	4,650	1,560	6,453
Disposals	-	(362)	-	(362)
At 31 August 2025	<u>2,992,598</u>	<u>148,219</u>	<u>390,344</u>	<u>3,531,161</u>
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2024	456,002	115,342	227,283	798,627
Charged for the year	27,411	10,009	44,167	81,587
Eliminated on disposals	-	(362)	-	(362)
At 31 August 2025	<u>483,413</u>	<u>124,989</u>	<u>271,450</u>	<u>879,852</u>
Net book value				
At 31 August 2025	<u>2,509,185</u>	<u>23,230</u>	<u>118,894</u>	<u>2,651,309</u>
At 31 August 2024	<u>2,536,353</u>	<u>28,589</u>	<u>161,501</u>	<u>2,726,443</u>

Included in the cost or valuation of land and buildings is freehold land of £251,278 (2024: £251,278).

The Academy owns the land and buildings from which it operates. On conversion the Trustees' agreed to base their valuation of land and buildings on insurance valuation. This was chosen in favour of having a formal valuation done as the cost of a formal valuation would be onerous compared with the additional benefit derived by the users of the accounts.

13 STOCKS

	2025 £	2024 £
Stocks	<u>493</u>	<u>629</u>

14 DEBTORS

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	17,108	3,715
VAT	4,626	229
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>11,948</u>	<u>13,098</u>
	<u>33,682</u>	<u>17,042</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**15 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other loans	2,293	2,293
Trade creditors	3,017	4,778
Payments on account	-	1,395
Accrued expenses	17,608	14,060
Deferred government grants	16,345	47,421
	<u>39,263</u>	<u>69,947</u>

Deferred income

	2025	2024
	£	£
Deferred income at 1 September	47,421	18,944
Resources deferred in the year	16,345	47,421
Amounts released from previous years	(47,421)	(18,944)
Deferred income at 31 August	<u>16,345</u>	<u>47,421</u>

Deferred income relates to grants from the DfE/ESFA which will be utilised in the year ending 31 August 2026.

16 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other loans	<u>1,147</u>	<u>3,440</u>

An interest free loan was provided of £18,345 loan from Salix to use on improving energy efficiency by upgrading lighting to LED. At the year-end there was £3,440 due (included in current and non-current liabilities). Annual payments of £2,293 are deducted from ESFA remittances and is to mature in February 2027.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

17 FUNDS

	Balance at 31 August 2024 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains, Losses and Transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2025 £
Unrestricted funds	372,173	70,300	(71,915)	-	370,558
Restricted funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	66,805	995,057	(1,012,201)	-	49,662
Pupil Premium	-	41,755	(41,755)	-	-
UIFSM	-	27,697	(27,697)	-	-
PE and sports premium	-	9,151	(6,419)	-	2,732
Teachers' pay additional grant	-	24,048	(24,048)	-	-
Teachers' pension grant	-	28,863	(28,863)	-	-
Other DfE grants	-	14,548	(14,548)	-	-
Other government grants	-	142,593	(142,593)	-	-
Other income from the academy trust's educational operations	-	-	-	-	-
Other trading income	-	10,978	(10,978)	-	-
Pension reserve	-	-	11,000	(11,000)	-
	66,805	1,294,690	(1,298,101)	(11,000)	52,394
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Transfer on conversion	1,937,030	-	-	-	1,937,030
Capital expenditure from DfE	789,412	-	(81,587)	6,454	714,279
Devolved formula capital grant		12,989	-	(6,454)	6,535
	2,726,442	12,989	(81,587)	-	2,657,844
Total restricted funds	2,793,247	1,307,679	(1,379,688)	(11,000)	2,710,238
Total funds	3,165,420	1,377,979	(1,451,603)	(11,000)	3,080,796

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

The Restricted General Funds includes GAG and other grants receivable from the DfE/ESFA towards the School's educational activities. School funds held in respect of education visits and events are also included in the Restricted General Fund.

The Restricted Fixed Asset Fund includes amounts receivable from the DfE/ESFA in respect of tangible fixed assets held for School use.

The Pension Reserve relates to the School's share of the deficit of the Local Government Pension Scheme overseen by the Local Authority.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the academy was subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2025. Note 2 discloses that this limit was exceeded.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

17 FUNDS (continued)

Comparative information in respect of the preceding period is as follows:

	Balance at 31 August 2023 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains, Losses and Transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
Unrestricted funds	290,229	102,532	(20,588)	-	372,173
Restricted funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	144,698	892,200	(961,228)	(8,866)	66,804
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	140,058	(140,058)	-	-
Other government grants	-	122,781	(122,781)	-	-
Other income for education operations	-	2,442	(2,442)	-	-
Other trading income	-	1,587	(1,587)	-	-
	144,698	1,159,068	(1,228,096)	(8,866)	66,804
Pension reserve	(2,000)	-	9,000	(7,000)	-
	142,698	1,159,068	(1,219,096)	(15,866)	66,804
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Transfer on conversion	1,986,549	-	(49,519)	-	1,937,030
Capital expenditure from DfE	810,933	1,739	(32,185)	8,866	789,413
	2,797,542	1,739	(81,704)	8,866	2,726,443
Total restricted funds	2,940,240	1,160,807	(1,300,800)	(7,000)	2,793,247
Total funds	3,230,469	1,263,339	(1,321,388)	(7,000)	3,165,420

18 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Fund balances are represented by:

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	2,651,309	-	2,651,309	2,726,443
Current assets	370,558	6,535	92,804	469,897	512,364
Current liabilities	-	-	(39,263)	(39,263)	(69,947)
Non-current liabilities	-	-	(1,147)	(1,147)	(3,440)
Pension Scheme Liability	-	-	-	-	-
	370,558	2,657,844	52,394	3,080,796	3,165,420

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

18 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS (continued)

Comparative information in respect of the preceding period is as follows:

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	2,726,443	-	2,726,443	2,798,323
Current assets	372,172	-	140,191	512,363	485,793
Current liabilities	-	-	(69,947)	(69,947)	(45,914)
Non-current liabilities	-	-	(3,440)	(3,440)	(5,733)
Pension Scheme Liability	-	-	-	-	(2,000)
	<u>372,173</u>	<u>2,726,443</u>	<u>66,804</u>	<u>3,165,420</u>	<u>3,230,469</u>

19 CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

At 31 August 2025, the Academy had no capital commitments (2024: Nil).

20 RECONCILIATION OF NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2025 £	2024 £
Net expenditure for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(73,624)	(58,049)
Adjusted for:		
Interest receivable	(1,450)	(1,993)
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	81,587	81,704
Loss on disposal of fixed assets,	-	-
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(12,989)	-
Defined benefit pension cost less contributions payable	(12,000)	(10,000)
Defined benefit pension scheme admin costs	1,000	1,000
Decrease/(Increase) in stocks	136	81
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	(16,640)	9
(Decrease)/Increase in creditors	(30,684)	24,033
Net cash (used in)/provided by Operating Activities	<u>(64,664)</u>	<u>36,785</u>

21 CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES

	2025 £	2024 £
Repayments of borrowing	(2,293)	(2,293)
Net cash used in Financing Activities	<u>(2,293)</u>	<u>(2,293)</u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

22 CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(6,493)	(9,824)
Capital grants from DfE/EFA	12,989	-
Interest received	1,450	1,993
Net cash provided by/(used in) Investing Activities	7,986	(7,831)

23 ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Cash in hand and at bank	435,722	494,693

24 ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

	At 1 September 2024	Cash Flows 2025	Non-cash movements 2025	At 31 August 2025
	£	£	£	£
Cash in hand and at bank	494,693	(58,971)	-	435,722
Loans falling due within one year	(2,293)	-	-	(2,293)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(3,440)	2,293	-	(1,147)
Cash and cash equivalents	<u>488,960</u>	<u>(56,678)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>432,282</u>

25 MEMBERS' LIABILITY

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

26 PENSION COMMITMENTS

The Academy's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff, and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff. Both are multi-employer defined-benefit schemes.

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2020 and of the LGPS to the period ended 31 March 2022.

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

26 PENSION COMMITMENTS (continued)

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. Membership is automatic for teachers in academy trusts. All teachers have the option to opt-out of the TPS following enrolment. The TPS is an unfunded scheme to which both the member and employer makes contributions, as a percentage of salary – these Contributions are credited to the Exchequer. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament.

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to ensure scheme costs are recognised and managed appropriately and the review specifies the level of Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2020. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 27 October 2023, with the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, applying a notional investment return based on 1.7% above the rate of CPI.

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- Employer contribution rates set at 28.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy). This is an increase of 5% in employer contributions and the cost control result is such that no change in member benefits is needed.
- Total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £262,000 million and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222,000 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £39,800 million

The result of this valuation will be implemented from 1 April 2024. The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2027.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £140,355 (2024 - £116,460).

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

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102, the TPS is an unfunded multi-employer pension scheme. The academy trust is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the plan. Accordingly, the academy trust has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 and has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The academy trust has set out above, the information available on the scheme.

26 PENSION COMMITMENTS (continued)**Local Government Pension Scheme**

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2025 was £100,000 (2024 - £88,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £80,000 (2024 - £70,000), and employees' contributions totalled £20,000 (2024 - £18,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 32.6% for employers and between 5% and 8% per cent for employees.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of an academy trust closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013. and on 21 July 2022, the Department for Education reaffirmed its commitment to the guarantee, with a parliamentary minute published on GOV.UK.

Principal actuarial assumptions at the Statement of Financial Position date (expressed as weighted averages):

	2025 £	2024 £
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	6.05%	5.10%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.55%	3.80%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment / inflation	2.55%	2.80%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	-	3.05%

Sensitivity analysis

The sensitivities regarding the principal assumptions used to measure the scheme liabilities are set out below:

	2025 £	2024 £
Change in assumptions at year ended 31 August 2024		
Discount rate +1%	51,000	62,000
Discount rate -1%	54,000	65,000
Mortality assumption – 1 year increase	54,000	66,000
Mortality assumption – 1 year decrease	51,000	62,000
CPI rate +0.1%	53,000	64,000
CPI rate -0.1%	53,000	64,000

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

	2025	2024
Retiring today -		
Males	21.6 years	21.1 years
Females	24.2 years	23.9 years
Retiring in 20 years -		
Males	22.7 years	22.1 years
Females	<u>25.8 years</u>	<u>25.5 years</u>

26 PENSION COMMITMENTS (continued)

The Academy's share of the assets and liabilities in the scheme and the expected rate of return were:

	Fair value at 31 August 2025	Fair value at 31 August 2024
	£	£
Equities	660,920	559,860
Government bonds	202,540	162,540
Property	170,560	135,450
Cash	42,640	45,150
	<u>1,066,000</u>	<u>903,000</u>
Total market value of assets	1,066,000	903,000
Present value of scheme liabilities	(761,000)	(859,000)
Asset ceiling adjustment	(305,000)	(44,000)
Net liability	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

The actual return on scheme assets was £48,000 (2024: £168,000).

Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Current service cost	74,000	62,000
Net interest from net defined benefit asset/liability	(4,000)	(2,000)
Administrative expenses	1,000	1,000
Total operating charge	<u>71,000</u>	<u>61,000</u>

The actuarial gains and losses for the current year are recognised in the statement of financial activities.

Movements in the present value of the Academy's defined benefit obligations:

	2025 £	2024 £
Opening defined benefit liabilities	859,000	733,000
Current service cost	74,000	62,000
Past service cost		
Interest cost	44,000	39,000
Employee contributions	20,000	18,000
Actuarial (gains)/losses from changes in demographic assumptions	(223,000)	19,000
Actuarial (gains)/losses from changes in financial assumptions	9,000	(2,000)
Obligation other remeasurement	8,000	(4,000)
Benefits paid	(30,000)	(6,000)
	<u>761,000</u>	<u>859,000</u>

26 PENSION COMMITMENTS (continued)**Movements in the fair value of the Academy's share of scheme assets:**

	2025	2024
	£	£
Opening fair value of scheme assets	903,000	731,000
Expected return on assets (excluding interest income)	44,000	50,000
Interest on asset	48,000	41,000
Actuarial (loss) / gain	-	-
Administration expense	(1,000)	(1,000)
Contributions by employer	82,000	70,000
Contributions by employee	20,000	18,000
Estimated benefits paid	(30,000)	(6,000)
	<u>1,066,000</u>	<u>903,000</u>

27 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Owing to the nature of the Academy's operations and the composition of the board of trustees being drawn from local public and private section organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which a trustee has an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the Academy's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

No related party transactions took place during the year ended 31 August 2025 (2024: £nil).