Company registration number 07318714 (England and Wales)

ABBEY ACADEMIES TRUST

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

ABBEY ACADEMIES TRUST

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ABBEY ACADEMIES TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members	Mr D Pickering Mr P Thompson Mr D N Page Mr S Haigh Mr P Lister
Trustees	Mrs A Eggleston (Resigned 9 December 2024) Mr S Haigh (Chair of Trustees) Mrs S J Moore (Accounting Officer) (Resigned 19 September 2025) Mr C R Bates Dr F H P Brierley (Resigned 2 October 2025) Mr P E Gandy Mr S Farnaby Rev'd S Buckman
Senior management team - Executive Headteacher - Chief Finance Officer - Chief Operating Officer - Chief Finance Officer - Interim Chief Executive Officer	Mrs S J Moore (Resigned 31 August 2025) Mrs J Parsons (Resigned 21 April 2025) Mrs S J Bates Miss T Jones (From 21 April 2025) Mrs M Shears (From 1 September 2025)
Company secretary	Mrs S J Bates
Company registration number	07318714 (England and Wales)
Principal and registered office	Abbey Road Bourne Lincolnshire PE10 9EP United Kingdom

Academies operated	**Location**	**Executive Headteacher**
Colsterworth Church of England Primary School	Colsterworth	Mrs S J Moore
Bourne Abbey Church of England Primary Academy	Bourne	Mrs S J Moore
Bourne Elsea Park Church of England Primary Academy	Bourne	Mrs S J Moore

Independent auditor	Azets Audit Services Westpoint Lynch Wood Peterborough Cambridgeshire PE2 6FZ United Kingdom

ABBEY ACADEMIES TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Bankers	National Westminster PLC Market Place Spalding Lincolnshire PE11 1ST United Kingdom

ABBEY ACADEMIES TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

The trustees present their annual report together with the accounts and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report and strategic report under company law.

Summary of Abbey Academies Trust Report:
Abbey Academies Trust is committed to improving educational achievement and providing a nurturing, inclusive environment while fostering community cohesion. The Trust's strategic plans for 2024/25 focussed on enhancing early years provision, raising standards in core subjects, enriching the curriculum with cultural capital and sustainability, supporting mental health and wellbeing, and developing leadership and governance.

Key priorities included:

- Meeting mental health and wellbeing needs across all stages.
- Developing vocabulary, cultural awareness, and early reading skills in EYFS.
- Strengthening curriculum delivery, particularly in English, maths, ICT, oracy, and writing.
- Embedding sustainability initiatives.
- Supporting SEND pupils effectively and reviewing SATs preparation.
- Reinforcing fundamental British values alongside Christian ethos and UNICEF Rights Respecting goals.
- Ensuring leadership drives high expectations, clear curriculum intent, and staff wellbeing.

Governance is supportive and offers challenge, with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) accountable for delivering value for money by targeting resources effectively, optimising staffing, monitoring performance, and ensuring financial oversight. Purchasing, contracts, and estate management are managed to maximize efficiency and compliance.

Overall, the Trust continues to be effective, and supports continuous improvement in educational outcomes and operational efficiency.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The 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 trust.

The trustees of Abbey Academies Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. Details of the trustees who served during the year, and to the date these accounts are approved, 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 charitable 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 ceased to be a member.

Trustees' indemnities

From the articles to provide indemnity insurance to cover the liability of governors which by virtue of any rule of law should otherwise attach to them in respect of any negligence, breach of trust or breach of duty of which they may be guilty in relation to the academy trust. Provided that any such insurance shall not extend to any claim arising from any act or omission, which the trustees knew to be in breach of trust or breach of duty, and provided also that any such insurance shall not extend to costs of any unsuccessful defence to a criminal prosecution against the trustees in their capacity as trustees.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of trustees

Subject to Articles 48 - 49 and 64, the academy trust shall have the following trustees:

a. Not less than 9 trustees, appointed under Article 50
b. Up to 2 Staff Governors, if appointed under Article 50A
c. 2 Parent Governors appointed under Articles 53-58. A Parent Governor must be a parent of the pupil at the Academy at the time when he is elected;
d. The Principal;
e. Any Additional Governors, if appointed under Article 62, 62A or 68A; and
f. Any Further Governors, if appointed under Article 63 or Article 68A.

The Academy Trust may also have any Co-opted Governor appointed under Article 59.

The term of office for any Governor (other than Co-opted Governors under Article 59) shall be 4 years, save that this time limit shall not apply to the Principal, the Diocesan Bishop, the Incumbent, the Area Dean. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Governor, any Governor may be re-appointed or re-elected.

A Local Governing Board (LGB) for each individual school is in place to undertake the day to day running of each school in line with the agreed Scheme of Delegation.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

The training and induction provided for new trustees depends on their existing experience. Where necessary induction provides training on charity and educational legal and financial matters. All trustees and governors are provided with copies of terms of reference, policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as trustees and governors.

Organisational structure

The organisational structure of the trust consists of four levels: The members, trustees, governors and the senior leadership team. The aim of the organisational structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels.

The trust is governed by the board of trustees which delegates functions as appropriate to the local governing body of each academy.

The trustees are responsible for all areas covered under the funding agreements and all areas of statutory responsibility appertaining to the trust which include setting general policy, adopting an annual improvement plan for both academies and budget for the trust, monitoring the academies by the use of budgets and making major decisions about the direction of the academy trust, capital expenditure and senior staff appointments.

The governors of each academy are responsible for monitoring the performance of their academy, focusing on academic standards and leadership. This includes regular scrutiny and challenge of the Executive Headteacher and senior leadership team. The Chief Financial Officer is the lead officer responsible for finance and reports to the local governing body on financial performance against delegated budget levels.

The Executive Headteacher and senior leadership team at each academy are responsible at an executive level for implementing the policies as agreed by the trustees and any local operating procedures as approved by the local governing bodies. As a group the senior leaders are responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets and the appointment of staff.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The policy for teacher's pay sets out the framework for making decisions on teachers' pay. It has been developed to comply with current legislation and the requirements of the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD) and has been consulted on with staff.

The policy for support staff pay sets out the framework for making decisions on support staff pay. It has been developed to comply with current legislation and has been consulted on with staff.

In adopting these pay policies the aim is to:

- maintain the quality of teaching and learning at each academy.
- support the academy improvement plans.
- underpin the trust's appraisal policy.
- ensure that all staff are valued and appropriately rewarded for their work contribution in the trust.
- ensure staff are well motivated, supported by positive recruitment and retention policies and staff development.
- demonstrate that decisions on pay are fair and equitable and recognise the principle of equal pay for like work and work of equal value.
- provide flexibility to recognise individual staff performance linked to pay decisions.

Pay decisions at the trust are made by the Finance, Pay & Audit Committee in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer.

Trade union facility time

There has been no time spent on trade union facility time during the year.

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

Transactions with related parties are detailed in note 28.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

Abbey Academies Trust continues to provide quality education for pupils aged 2 to 11 years across its three academies: Bourne Abbey Church of England Primary Academy, Bourne Elsea Park Church of England Primary Academy, and Colsterworth Church of England Primary School.

The Trust remains committed to supporting local school improvement agenda through its partnership model, with all three schools working together. The CEO has responsibility for the Trust, with the individual Heads of School managing the day-to-day operations. maintaining each academy's distinctive ethos while fostering a strong shared identity.

As Church of England schools, the Trust encourages pupils to strive for academic excellence alongside the development of faith, spirituality, hope, charity, and informed citizenship.

Main Objectives for 2024–2025 included:

- Ensuring every pupil received consistently high-quality education tailored to their needs.
- Continuing to raise educational achievement and attainment across all academies.
- Reviewing and improving curriculum and organisational structures regularly.
- Providing value for money in all expenditure.
- Complying fully with safeguarding and statutory curriculum requirements.
- Maintaining strong links with local communities and other schools.
- Sharing good practice and contribute to teacher training.
- Conducting Trust business with integrity, openness, and transparency.

Objectives, strategies and activities

The Trust's mission *"Striving for Excellence – Caring for All within a loving and caring Christian environment"*, guides all strategies, including:

- Identifying pupil abilities and preferred learning styles to tailor teaching strategies.
- Delivering a broad, balanced curriculum enriched with extracurricular opportunities.
- Providing a comprehensive Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) programme.
- Ensuring robust safeguarding procedures are maintained and regularly reviewed.

Public benefit

The trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties.

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

Despite ongoing challenges, including some leadership transitions, Abbey Academies Trust has maintained strong educational outcomes and operational stability.

- **Leadership and Staffing:**
  New leadership roles have been further embedded to strengthen succession planning and support ongoing school improvement. Interim SENCO arrangements ensured SEND provision remained high quality.

- **Academic Outcomes:**
  Assessment data for EYFS, phonics, Year 4 Multiplication Check, and KS1/KS2 SATs met national average expectations, with writing outcomes continue to be a strong area.

- **Pupil Premium and Vulnerable Groups:**
  Provision mapping and targeted interventions remains a priority, with attendance and pastoral support closely monitored.

- **Community and Reputation:**
  With all schools being judged to be Good in their most recent Ofsted inspections, pupil numbers have remained strong.

- **Curriculum Development:**
  The Trust's curriculum remains broad and engaging, with developments mental health and well-being initiatives, and character education policies reinforcing holistic pupil development.

- **Safeguarding and Compliance:**
  Regular reviews confirm the Trust's strong commitment to safeguarding across all schools.

- **Staff Development:**
  Comprehensive staff training, including Read, Write, Inc training and specialist leadership programs, continue to enhance teaching quality.

- **Sustainability and Recognition:**
  All schools maintain their Eco School Green Flag status, with continued achievement in UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools awards.

Key Highlights include:

- **Maths Mastery:**
  Trust-wide implementation has driven significant improvement in maths results.

- **Christian Distinctiveness:**
  The Trust's Christian vision continues to remain the central priority of the Trust, positively influencing curriculum, policies, and school culture, preparing pupils morally and spiritually.

- **Pupil Opportunities:**
  Participation in extra-curricular activities, trips, visits and national events showcase the Trust's commitment to enriching pupil experiences.

Going concern

The Trust has ended the year with a cumulative deficit of £267k. Following an SRMA visit, change of leadership and discussions with the DfE, the trust is developing a financial plan which will recover the deficit within two academic years. The trustees therefore have a reasonable expectation that the trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

Financial review

The academy trust held fund balances at 31 August 2025 of £6,966,708 comprising £6,966,708 of restricted funds and £Nil of unrestricted funds. Of the restricted funds, £7,234,038 is represented by tangible fixed assets

Key performance Indicators

- The trust keeps a regular overview of its finances and details reports to trustees and governors..
- The trustees and governors regularly monitor, review and approve budget statements and plans. Trustees' and governors' advice and approval is always sought for major financial commitments.
  Key budget allocations and spending decisions are all linked to the Academy Improvement Plan. However, if a new initiative that will improve the academy becomes available, it will be reviewed by all members of the school community, including the financial implications and either approved or not. The trustees have the final approval. The unrestricted funds can be used to offset the financial implications of an initiative and funds raised by the PTFA can also be allocated.

Reserves policy

The trustees review the reserves level of the trust annually. The review takes into account the nature of the income and expenditure streams. The trustees have determined that the appropriate level of reserves is £200,000 at trust level and the equivalent of one month's operating expenditure for each academy. The trust is currently in cumulative deficit, so is working towards reaching the reserves target over the next three-year budget cycle.

Investment policy

Under the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the trust has the power to invest funds not immediately required for its own purposes, in any way the trustees see fit. There are currently no additional funds to invest.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The trustees are responsible for identifying risks faced by the trust, establishing procedures to mitigate these risks, and ensuring that employees are aware of the procedures and of the implications of failing to implement them. They are satisfied that these procedures are consistent with the guidelines issued by the Charity Commission

The key risks for the trust are:

- Financial position
- Maintaining strong leadership
- Impact of changes on educational standards
- Pressure on pupil numbers in line with the national trends.

Fundraising

The Student Council vote on and organise fundraising events during the year. The trust does not use professional fundraisers or involve commercial participants. There have been no complaints about fundraising activity this year.

Plans for future periods

Abbey Academies Trust continue to strive to improve levels of achievement and attainment for all its pupils while providing a high-quality, caring, and nurturing educational environment. The Trust remains committed to fostering community cohesion.

For the academic year 2025/26, the trust aims to further enhance the educational experience by focusing on the following areas:

Early Years Foundation Stage:

- To continue supporting children's mental health and wellbeing needs.
- Ensure identification and support for vulnerable groups and children exceeding their age/stage of development, focusing on vocabulary growth and cultural capital development.
- Maintain regular monitoring of EYFS provision to ensure progression in knowledge, skills, and spiritual opportunities.
- Further develop and expand outdoor learning provisions across the EYFS setting.
- Enhance early reading and phonics provision, including targeted CPD and rigorous monitoring to raise standards.

Quality of Education:

- Introduce a wider range of targeted interventions to ensure all children can 'be the best they can'.
- Prioritise raising standards in oracy, positively impacting wider learning outcomes.
- Ensure the curriculum supports acquisition of core skills in English, mathematics, and IT, tailored to meet diverse learner needs.
- Enrich the curriculum further with broad subjects that promote cultural capital, aligned with the Trust's vision and curriculum model.
- Plan and embed greater opportunities for spirituality throughout the curriculum.
- Enhance curriculum design to support children in 'knowing more and remembering more'.
- Continue to refine the writing curriculum to improve outcomes.
- Monitor and support SEND provision, regularly reviewing impact and gathering feedback from pupils and parents/carers.
- Review and optimise Year 6 SATs preparation to ensure all pupils achieve aspirational targets.
- Raise standards through the development of IT provision.

Personal Development, Behaviour and Attitudes:

- Continue to address children's mental health and wellbeing, expanding the role of Mental Health and Wellbeing First Aiders.
- Provide regular opportunities for pupils to engage with 'big questions' to nurture spiritual and moral development.
- Embed further knowledge of Understanding Christianity and extend pupils' understanding of other faiths within Religious Education.
- Ensure the PSHE curriculum enables pupils to understand and articulate diversity and Protected Characteristics.
- Maintain and develop the Trust's UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Gold Award status.
- Reinforce Fundamental British Values, alongside Christian Values and ethos.

Leadership and Management:

- Continue to provide strong leadership that motivates staff, communicates a clear vision, and commits to raising standards.
- Develop subject leaders' skills to maximise impact on learning and teaching.
- Maintain compliance with the Prevent Duty, to safeguard pupils from abuse, exploitation, radicalisation, and extremism.
- Empower subject leaders to evaluate and lead subject development with clear knowledge and skills progression.
- Prioritise staff wellbeing and work-life balance.
- Enhance communication with parents and carers, particularly for those with SEND pupils, to ensure effective partnership and support.

These plans will be regularly monitored throughout the year to ensure continued progress and success across the Trust.

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others
The trust and its trustees do not act as the custodian trustees of any charity.

Auditor
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.

A resolution proposing that Azets Audit Services be reappointed as auditor of the charitable company will be put to the members.

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 10 November 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Mr S Haigh
Chair of Trustees

ABBEY ACADEMIES TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Scope of responsibility

As trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Abbey Academies Trust 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 or loss.

The board of trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive Officer and 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 Abbey Academies Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. The accounting officer is also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The board of trustees has formally met 5 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of trustees was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Mrs A Eggleston (Resigned 9 December 2024)	3	4
Mr S Haigh (Chair of Trustees)	6	6
Mrs S J Moore (Accounting Officer) (Resigned 19 September 2025)	5	6
Mr C R Bates	6	6
Dr F H P Brierley (Resigned 2 October 2025)	2	6
Mr P E Gandy	6	6
Mr S Farnaby	6	6
Rev'd S Buckman	1	6

Conflicts of interest

All Members, Trustees, Governors and staff with purchasing authority are required to declare their interests annually by completing the Register of Business Interests pro forma. The original is held by the Clerk on behalf of the Trust.

To be effective, the declaration of interests form needs to be updated at least annually, and also when any changes occur.

Members, Trustees, Governors and staff of Abbey Academies Trust are advised that if they are not sure what to declare, or whether/when any declaration needs to be updated, they should err on the side of caution. The Chair of the Board of Trustees will provide advice and it is their responsibility to ensure that professional advice (i.e. from the auditors) is sought where necessary.

At each meeting, the Clerk will ask for any conflicts of interest to be declared. Interested board members may not vote on matters affecting their own interests and they must absent themselves from the discussion and the decision-making process.

Review of value for money
As Accounting Officer, the Chief Executive Officer is responsible for ensuring that Abbey Academies Trust delivers good value in the use of public resources.

The Accounting Officer considers how the trust's use of resources has provided value for money during each academic year and reports to the Board of Trustees where improvements can be made, including:

Improving Educational Results:
- Targeting resources strategically in key subjects such as English and Mathematics.
- Monitoring and responding to the needs of specific pupil groups, including those eligible for Pupil Premium and Looked After Children grants, ensuring tailored and effective support.

Staffing:
- Maintaining a carefully structured staffing establishment, regularly reviewing opportunities to minimise excess staffing as it is the largest expenditure.
- Monitoring staff performance and taking appropriate actions to address areas of weakness.
- Delivering an extensive CPD training programme focused on enhancing teaching and learning across the curriculum.

Financial Governance and Oversight:
- Conducting monthly financial monitoring, with regular meetings of the Local Governing Bodies and the Board of Trustees. These bodies receive comprehensive reports and challenge spending decisions effectively.
- Supplementing financial oversight with regular internal audit reports.

Better Purchasing:
- Embed new systems for purchasing options, including online and direct supplier engagements, to secure the best value.
- Implementing tender processes for significant purchases and contracts.
- Reviewing all contracts annually to ensure continued fitness for purpose and best value.

Estates Management:
- Applying the trust's procurement policy rigorously when contracting estate works to ensure value for money.

The purpose of the system of internal control
The system of internal control aims to manage risk to a reasonable level, rather than eliminate all risk of failure to achieve the trust's policies, aims, and objectives. It provides reasonable, not absolute, assurance of effectiveness.

This system involves identifying and prioritising risks, evaluating their likelihood and impact, and managing them efficiently, effectively, and economically.

Capacity to handle risk
The Board of Trustees continues to review the key risks facing the trust and the controls in place to mitigate them.

The risk and control framework
The trust's system of internal control includes:

- Budgeting and monitoring systems, with an annual budget and periodic financial reports reviewed and approved by the Board.
- Review by the Finance, Pay and Audit Committee of financial performance, major purchase plans, capital works, and expenditure programmes.
- Setting financial and performance targets.
- Defined purchasing guidelines for asset purchases and capital investments.
- Identification and management of risks.

The Board has commissioned an internal audit service from Day's Accountancy Services, who provided scrutiny and advice on finance and governance. The review covered:

- Management letter responses and actions
- Income and expenditure testing
- Payroll processes
- Bank accounts and Investments
- Balance sheet reconciliation
- Governance
- Policies and compliance

The internal auditor provided a report to the Board through the Audit Committee, with a summary of findings, recommendations, and conclusions to support continuous improvement.

In addition, the Board commissioned an investigation into some specific concerns raised to ensure that systems and controls can be further improved where appropriate.

Review of effectiveness

As accounting officer the Chief Executive Officer 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 internal auditor;
- the work of the external auditor;
- the work of the executive managers within the trust who have day to day 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, Pay and Audit committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Conclusion

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

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 10 November 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Mr S Haigh
Chair of Trustees

Mrs M Shears
Accounting Officer

ABBEY ACADEMIES TRUST

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

As accounting officer of Abbey Academies Trust, I have considered my responsibility to notify the trust board of trustees and the Department for Education (DfE) of material irregularity, impropriety and noncompliance with terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement in place between the trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2024, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

I confirm that I and the trust's board of trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds by the trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the trust's funding agreement and the Academy Trust Handbook 2024.

I confirm that no proven instances of material irregularity, impropriety or funding non-compliance have been discovered to date. Following the end of the year, a number of potential weaknesses in regularity were identified and have been reported to the DfE.

M. Shears

Mrs M Shears
Accounting Officer

10 November 2025

ABBEY ACADEMIES TRUST

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

The trustees (who are also the directors of Abbey Academies Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the accounts in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 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 accounts for each financial year. Under company law, the trustees must not approve the accounts 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 accounts, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025;
- make judgements 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 accounts; and
- prepare the accounts 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 accounts 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 that grants received from the DfE 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 accounts may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 10 November 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Mr S Haigh
Chair of Trustees

ABBEY ACADEMIES TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ABBEY ACADEMIES TRUST

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of Abbey Academies Trust for the year ended 31 August 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the accounts, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the accounts:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company'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;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025.

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 accounts' section of our report. We are independent of the trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts 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.

Material uncertainty relating to going concern

We draw your attention to note 1.2 in the financial statements, which indicates that a significant deficit has been incurred during the year, resulting in an overall deficit on available reserves. These conditions indicate that a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt on the academy's ability to continue as a going concern. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the accounts 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. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the accounts or our knowledge obtained in the course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the accounts themselves. 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 including the incorporated strategic report for the financial year for which the accounts are prepared is consistent with the accounts; and
- the trustees' report including the incorporated strategic report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report, including the incorporated strategic 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 accounts are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' 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 statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts 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 accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the accounts, the trustees are responsible for assessing the 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 charitable company, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the accounts 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 accounts.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above and on the Financial Reporting Council's website, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

We obtain and update our understanding of the entity, its activities, its control environment, and likely future developments, including in relation to the legal and regulatory framework applicable and how the entity is complying with that framework. Based on this understanding, we 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. This includes consideration of the risk of acts by the entity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, we designed procedures which included:

- Enquiry of senior leadership, Trustees and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Assessing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations including compliance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by the Department for Education;
- Performing audit work over the recognition of grant income and the allocation of expenditure to funds;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

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 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.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company'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 charitable company'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 charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Mr Mark Jackson FCA DChA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Azets Audit Services

16 December 2025

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Westpoint
Lynch Wood
Peterborough
Cambridgeshire
United Kingdom
PE2 6FZ

ABBEY ACADEMIES TRUST

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO ABBEY ACADEMIES TRUST AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 17 September 2025 and further to the requirements of the Department for Education (DfE) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Abbey Academies Trust during the period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to Abbey Academies Trust and DfE in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Abbey Academies Trust and DfE 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 Abbey Academies Trust and DfE, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Abbey Academies Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant
The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Abbey Academies Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 30 November 2010 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2024, 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 Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025. 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 period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 have not been applied to 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 Accountant of Academy Trusts issued by DfE. We performed a limited assurance engagement as defined 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 trust's income and expenditure.

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- a review of the activities of the academy, by reference to sources of income and other information available to us;
- sample testing of expenditure, including payroll;
- a review of minutes of Trustees' meetings.

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO ABBEY ACADEMIES TRUST AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Conclusion

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

Following the end of the year a number of potential weaknesses in regularity were identified and have been reported to the DfE.



Reporting Accountant
Azets Audit Services
Westpoint
Lynch Wood
Peterborough
Cambridgeshire
PE2 6FZ
United Kingdom

Dated: 16 December 2025

ABBEY ACADEMIES TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Restricted funds: Fixed asset £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	31,271	44,593	24,095	99,959	340,199
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	137,086	6,317,459	-	6,454,545	6,138,570
- Provision of childcare	27	784,015	-	-	784,015	767,815
Other trading activities	5	10,508	-	-	10,508	19,613
Investments	6	3,018	-	-	3,018	5,964
Total		965,898	6,362,052	24,095	7,352,045	7,272,161
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	8	138,281	6,628,293	242,790	7,009,364	7,256,647
- Provision of childcare	27	589,043	-	-	589,043	567,681
Total	7	727,324	6,628,293	242,790	7,598,407	7,824,328
Net income/(expenditure)		238,574	(266,241)	(218,695)	(246,362)	(552,167)
Transfers between funds	19	(261,187)	199,911	61,276	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	25	-	1,174,000	-	1,174,000	119,000
Adjustment for restriction on pension assets	25	-	(1,375,000)	-	(1,375,000)	(332,000)
Net movement in funds		(22,613)	(267,330)	(157,419)	(447,362)	(765,167)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		22,613	-	7,391,457	7,414,070	8,179,237
Total funds carried forward		-	(267,330)	7,234,038	6,966,708	7,414,070

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Comparative year information Year ended 31 August 2024	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Restricted funds: Fixed asset £	Total 2024 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	9,287	-	330,912	340,199
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	127,668	6,010,902	-	6,138,570
- Provision of childcare	27	767,815	-	-	767,815
Other trading activities	5	19,613	-	-	19,613
Investments	6	5,964	-	-	5,964
Total		930,347	6,010,902	330,912	7,272,161
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	8	131,774	6,560,518	564,355	7,256,647
- Provision of childcare	27	567,681	-	-	567,681
Total	7	699,455	6,560,518	564,355	7,824,328
Net income/(expenditure)		230,892	(549,616)	(233,443)	(552,167)
Transfers between funds	19	(638,383)	762,616	(124,233)	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	25	-	119,000	-	119,000
Adjustment for restriction on pension assets	25	-	(332,000)	-	(332,000)
Net movement in funds		(407,491)	-	(357,676)	(765,167)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		430,104	-	7,749,133	8,179,237
Total funds carried forward		22,613	-	7,391,457	7,414,070

ABBEY ACADEMIES TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	14		7,399,577		7,573,679
Current assets					
Debtors	15	291,151		328,505	
Cash at bank and in hand		24,399		154,669	
		315,550		483,174	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(600,118)		(477,194)	
Net current (liabilities)/assets			(284,568)		5,980
Total assets less current liabilities			7,115,009		7,579,659
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	18		(148,301)		(165,589)
Net assets excluding pension asset			6,966,708		7,414,070
Defined benefit pension scheme asset	25		-		-
Total net assets			6,966,708		7,414,070
Funds of the trust:					
Restricted funds	19				
- Fixed asset funds			7,234,038		7,391,457
- Restricted income funds			(267,330)		-
Total restricted funds			6,966,708		7,391,457
Unrestricted income funds	19		-		22,613
Total funds			6,966,708		7,414,070

The accounts on pages 21 to 46 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 10 November 2025 and are signed on their behalf by:

Mr S Haigh
Chair of Trustees

Company registration number 07318714 (England and Wales)

ABBEY ACADEMIES TRUST

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash used in operating activities	22		(88,584)		(866,205)
Cash flows from investing activities					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		3,018		5,964	
Capital grants from DfE Group		24,095		330,912	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(44,593)		-	
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities			(17,480)		336,876
Cash flows from financing activities					
Repayment of long term government loan		(16,683)		124,233	
Finance costs		(7,523)		-	
Net cash (used in)/provided by financing activities			(24,206)		124,233
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			(130,270)		(405,096)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			154,669		559,765
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year			24,399		154,669

1 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.

1.1 Basis of preparation

The accounts of the 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 (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by DfE, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

1.2 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 charitable 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 accounts.

Due to increased costs and unfunded salary increases, the Trust incurred a significant deficit in the year resulting in available funds being in deficit at the end of the year. The trustees and senior management team have been working closely during the year and have implemented a number of savings during the 2024-25 academic year. Further savings are planned for the 2025/26 academic year and the trustees believe that an in-year surplus will be achieved with the intention of returning to a cumulative surplus position by August 2027. Due to the progress made, the DfE have agreed to support the Trust with repayable deficit funding of £71,000 which will be made available in November 2025.

On that basis the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

1.3 Income

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

Grants

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 period 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.

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.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Other income

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

Donated goods, facilities and services

The value of donated services and gifts in kind provided to the trust are recognised at their open market value in the period in which they are receivable as income, where the benefit to the trust can be reliably measured. An equivalent amount is included as expenditure under the relevant heading in the statement of financial activities, except where the gift in kind was a fixed asset in which case the amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the trust's policies. The value of donated time from volunteers has not been included in these accounts.

Donated fixed assets

Donated fixed assets are measured at fair value unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor is used. The gain is recognised as income from donations and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the trust's accounting policies.

1.4 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 are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Expenditure on raising funds

This includes all expenditure incurred by the 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 trust's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the trust apportioned to charitable activities.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the trust's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management, trustees' meetings and reimbursed expenses.

(Continued)

1 Accounting policies

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Assets costing £10,000 or more 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 trust's depreciation policy. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

Furniture and equipment transferred into the academy from the previous local authority school has not been valued and introduced into these accounts.

Leasehold property inherited from the Local Authority on conversion to an academy was professionally valued on a depreciated replacement cost basis at 31 August 2012, commissioned by the DfE.

Leasehold property provided to the trust immediately on completion of the building being constructed is included at a value equivalent to the cost of the building.

Leasehold property inherited from the Local Authority on conversion to an academy during the year has been valued by the trustees using an average square footage calculation.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, as follows:

Leasehold property	2% straight line
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	3 years straight line

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.

1.6 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 trust anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods of services it must provide.

1.7 Leased assets

Rentals under operating leases are charged on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

1.8 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets

Trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Financial liabilities

Trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost. 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.

1.9 Taxation

The trust 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 trust 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.

1.10 Pensions benefits

Retirement benefits to employees of the trust are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme ('TPS') and the Local Government Pension Scheme ('LGPS'). These are defined benefit schemes and the assets are held separately from those of the trust.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the trust 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 quadrennial valuations using a projected unit method. The TPS is an unfunded multi-employer scheme with no underlying assets to assign between employers. Consequently, the TPS is treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions are recognised in the period to which they relate.

The LGPS is a funded multi-employer scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the trust in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit 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 net income or expenditure are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the statement of financial activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses. Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses.

1.11 Fund accounting

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

Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by the funders 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 Department for Education.

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Accounting 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.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

The 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.

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 or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 25, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. 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.

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Capital grants	-	24,095	24,095	330,912
Other donations	31,271	44,593	75,864	9,287
	31,271	68,688	99,959	340,199

4 Funding for the trust's charitable activities

Educational operations	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
DfE grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	4,708,194	4,708,194	4,507,706
Other DfE grants:				
- UIFSM	-	101,963	101,963	105,996
- Pupil premium	-	356,888	356,888	341,105
- PE and sports premium	-	56,840	56,840	56,640
- Teachers pension grant	-	97,160	97,160	40,484
- Teachers pay grant	-	80,136	80,136	79,648
- Others	-	218,653	218,653	186,591
	-	5,619,834	5,619,834	5,318,170
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	606,719	606,719	563,776
Other incoming resources	137,086	90,906	227,992	256,624
Total funding for educational operations	137,086	6,317,459	6,454,545	6,138,570
Provision of childcare	784,015	-	784,015	767,815
Total funding	921,101	6,317,459	7,238,560	6,906,385

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Hire of facilities	10,508	-	10,508	19,613

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Short term deposits	3,018	-	3,018	5,964

7 Expenditure

	Staff costs £	Non-pay expenditure Premises £	Non-pay expenditure Other £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	5,001,989	-	429,828	5,431,817	5,200,598
- Allocated support costs	650,776	551,019	375,752	1,577,547	2,056,049
Provision of childcare					
- Direct costs	-	-	17,726	17,726	20,147
- Allocated support costs	571,317	-	-	571,317	547,534
	6,224,082	551,019	823,306	7,598,407	7,824,328

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2025 £	2024 £
Operating lease rentals	12,943	12,943
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	218,695	218,689
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	8,746	8,832
- Other services	7,625	2,000
Loan interest	7,523	-
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	(62,000)	(46,000)

8 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Direct costs				
Educational operations	93,468	5,338,349	5,431,817	5,200,598
Provision of childcare	17,726	-	17,726	20,147
Support costs				
Educational operations	44,813	1,532,734	1,577,547	2,056,049
Provision of childcare	571,317	-	571,317	547,534
	727,324	6,871,083	7,598,407	7,824,328

8 Charitable activities

(Continued)

Analysis of costs	Provision of childcare	Educational operations	Total 2025	Total 2024 As restated
	£	£	£	£
Direct costs				
Teaching and educational support staff costs	-	5,062,132	5,062,132	4,782,232
Staff development	-	37,523	37,523	80,914
Technology costs	-	57,354	57,354	63,447
Educational supplies and services	17,726	142,825	160,551	191,808
Educational consultancy	-	7,996	7,996	-
Other direct costs	-	123,987	123,987	102,344
	17,726	5,431,817	5,449,543	5,220,745
Support costs				
Support staff costs	571,317	650,776	1,222,093	1,160,253
Depreciation	-	218,695	218,695	218,689
Maintenance of premises and equipment	-	34,096	34,096	507,356
Cleaning	-	81,834	81,834	75,409
Energy costs	-	105,247	105,247	161,020
Rent, rates and other occupancy costs	-	82,154	82,154	80,902
Insurance	-	28,993	28,993	26,868
Catering	-	264,164	264,164	249,369
Finance costs	-	(54,477)	(54,477)	(46,000)
Legal costs	-	6,136	6,136	3,873
Other support costs	-	89,969	89,969	96,135
Governance costs	-	69,960	69,960	69,709
	571,317	1,577,547	2,148,864	2,603,583

9 Governance costs

All from restricted funds:	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£
Amounts included in support costs		
Legal costs	6,136	3,873
Auditor's remuneration		
- Audit of financial statements	8,746	8,832
- Other audit costs	7,625	2,000
Other governance costs	53,589	58,877
	76,096	73,582

10 Staff

Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	4,711,335	4,609,148
Social security costs	460,753	413,512
Pension costs	1,000,652	896,040
Staff costs - employees	6,172,740	5,918,700
Agency staff costs	18,298	23,785
Staff restructuring costs	33,044	-
	6,224,082	5,942,485
Staff development and other staff costs	97,666	80,914
Total staff expenditure	6,321,748	6,023,399

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Severance payments	32,108	-
Other restructuring costs	936	-
	33,044	-

Included in agency staff costs above is £12,250 relating to off-payroll arrangements for a Chief Finance Officer that was not a direct employee of the trust. Approval was granted by the DfE until 31 August 2025 but they actually became an employee on 1 July 2025.

The trust paid 3 severance payments in the year, disclosed in the following bands:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
£0 - £25,000	3	-

Staff numbers

The average number of persons employed by the trust during the year was as follows:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Teachers	49	50
Administration and support	147	137
Management	3	3
	199	190

10 Staff

(Continued)

Higher paid staff

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

	2025 Number	2024 Number
£60,001 - £70,000	3	4
£140,001 - £150,000	-	1
£170,001 - £180,000	1	-

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the trust comprise the senior management team as listed on page 1. This year this represents 4 employees (2024 - 3 employees). The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the trust was £372,480 (2024 - £370,423).

11 Central services

No central services were provided by the trust to its academies during the year and no central charges arose.

12 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the trust. The Executive Headteacher and other staff trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of Executive Headteacher and staff members under their contracts of employment, and not in respect of their services as trustees. Other trustees did not receive any payments, other than expenses, from the trust in respect of their role as trustees.

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

Mrs S J Moore (Executive Head Teacher)

Salary and benefits £175,000 - £180,000 (2024 - £145,000 - £150,000)

Employer's pension contributions £40,000 - £45,000 (2024 - £30,000 - £35,000)

During the year, expenses totalling £1,939 (2024: £2,186) were reimbursed or paid directly to one (2024: one) trustee.

13 Trustees' and officers' insurance

The trust has opted into the Department for Education's Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA), an alternative to insurance where UK government funds cover losses that arise. This scheme protects trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on trust business, and provides cover up to £10,000,000. It is not possible to quantify the trustees and officers indemnity element from the overall cost of the RPA scheme.

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold property	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 September 2024	9,284,732	427,727	9,712,459
Additions	-	44,593	44,593
At 31 August 2025	9,284,732	472,320	9,757,052
Depreciation			
At 1 September 2024	1,751,073	387,707	2,138,780
Charge for the year	185,699	32,996	218,695
At 31 August 2025	1,936,772	420,703	2,357,475
Net book value			
At 31 August 2025	7,347,960	51,617	7,399,577
At 31 August 2024	7,533,659	40,020	7,573,679

Leasehold property comprises three properties, two of which are held on licence to use and the other on a 125 year lease, two with Lincolnshire County Council and one with Lincoln Diocesan Board of Education.

15 Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
	-	500
Trade debtors	17,541	9,344
VAT recoverable	54,710	62,948
Other debtors	218,900	255,713
Prepayments and accrued income	291,151	328,505

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
	17,238	16,633
Government loans	156,971	95,407
Trade creditors	92,530	86,227
Other taxation and social security	130,580	141,826
Other creditors	202,799	137,101
Accruals and deferred income	600,118	477,194

17 Deferred income

	2025 £	2024 £
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	108,427	115,192
Deferred income at 1 September 2024	115,192	145,137
Released from previous years	(115,192)	(145,137)
Resources deferred in the year	108,427	115,192
Deferred income at 31 August 2025	108,427	115,192

Deferred income relates to amounts paid in advance for the 2025/26 school year for kids club places, school trip deposits, universal infant free school meals and rates relief.

18 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Government loans	148,301	165,589

Analysis of loans	2025 £	2024 £
Not wholly repayable within five years by instalments	72,714	92,831
Wholly repayable within five years	92,825	89,391
	165,539	182,222
Less: included in current liabilities	(17,238)	(16,633)
Amounts included above	148,301	165,589

19 **Funds**

	Balance at 1 September 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2025 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	4,708,194	(5,221,611)	244,504	(268,913)
UIFSM	-	101,963	(101,963)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	356,888	(356,888)	-	-
Other DfE grants	-	452,789	(452,789)	-	-
Other government grants	-	606,719	(606,719)	-	-
Parent, Teacher and Friends Association	-	44,593	-	(44,593)	-
Len Pick Trust	-	27,950	(26,367)	-	1,583
Other restricted funds	-	62,956	(62,956)	-	-
Pension reserve	-	-	201,000	(201,000)	-
	-	6,362,052	(6,628,293)	(1,089)	(267,330)
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	7,573,679	-	(218,695)	44,593	7,399,577
DfE group capital grants	-	24,095	(24,095)	-	-
Salix loan	(17,022)	-	-	2,837	(14,185)
CIF loans	(165,200)	-	-	13,846	(151,354)
	7,391,457	24,095	(242,790)	61,276	7,234,038
Total restricted funds	7,391,457	6,386,147	(6,871,083)	60,187	6,966,708
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	22,613	58,338	(44,813)	(36,138)	-
School fund	-	123,545	(93,468)	(30,077)	-
Provision of childcare	-	784,015	(589,043)	(194,972)	-
	22,613	965,898	(727,324)	(261,187)	-
Total funds	7,414,070	7,352,045	(7,598,407)	(201,000)	6,966,708

19 Funds **(Continued)**

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

Restricted fixed asset funds
The devolved capital formula grant has to be spent on capital expenditure within 3 years of allocation.

The capital expenditure fund represents the net book value of fixed assets purchased.

The leasehold property represents the net book value of the leasehold property.

Restricted general funds
The restricted grant income in the year all relates to the provision of education for the children of the academy.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2025.

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.

Designated funds
The school fund balances are designated by the trustees for use in a variety of different areas.

(Continued)

19 Funds

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

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	4,507,706	(5,270,322)	762,616	-
UIFSM	-	105,996	(105,996)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	341,105	(341,105)	-	-
Other DfE grants	-	363,363	(363,363)	-	-
Other government grants	-	563,776	(563,776)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	128,956	(128,956)	-	-
Pension reserve	-	-	213,000	(213,000)	-
	-	6,010,902	(6,560,518)	549,616	-
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	7,792,368	-	(218,689)	-	7,573,679
DfE group capital grants	14,754	330,912	(345,666)	-	-
Salix loan	(19,859)	-	-	2,837	(17,022)
CIF loans	(38,130)	-	-	(127,070)	(165,200)
	7,749,133	330,912	(564,355)	(124,233)	7,391,457
Total restricted funds	7,749,133	6,341,814	(7,124,873)	425,383	7,391,457
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	55,512	70,618	(45,041)	(58,476)	22,613
School fund	48,800	91,914	(86,733)	(53,981)	-
Provision of childcare	325,792	767,815	(567,681)	(525,926)	-
	430,104	930,347	(699,455)	(638,383)	22,613
Total funds	8,179,237	7,272,161	(7,824,328)	(213,000)	7,414,070

19 Funds

(Continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2025 were allocated as follows:	2025 £	2024 £
Colsterworth Church of England Primary School	(176,020)	(122,209)
Bourne Abbey Church of England Primary Academy	(91,310)	33,670
Bourne Elsea Park Church of England Primary Academy	-	111,152
Total before fixed assets fund and pension reserve	(267,330)	22,613
Restricted fixed asset fund	7,234,038	7,391,457
Pension reserve	-	-
Total funds	6,966,708	7,414,070

Total cost analysis by academy

Expenditure incurred by each academy during the year was as follows:

	Teaching and educational support staff £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Colsterworth Church of England Primary School	680,466	151,541	21,004	130,646	983,657	985,947
Bourne Abbey Church of England Primary Academy	3,122,776	844,878	100,994	545,545	4,614,193	4,840,810
Bourne Elsea Park Church of England Primary Academy	1,296,413	225,674	38,557	221,218	1,781,862	1,778,882
	5,099,655	1,222,093	160,555	897,409	7,379,712	7,605,639

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Restricted funds: Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 August 2025 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	7,399,577	7,399,577
Current assets	59,960	255,590	-	315,550
Current liabilities	(59,960)	(522,920)	(17,238)	(600,118)
Non-current liabilities	-	-	(148,301)	(148,301)
Total net assets	-	(267,330)	7,234,038	6,966,708

(Continued)

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Restricted funds: Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	7,573,679	7,573,679
Current assets	86,607	396,567	-	483,174
Current liabilities	(63,994)	(396,567)	(16,633)	(477,194)
Non-current liabilities	-	-	(165,589)	(165,589)
Total net assets	22,613	-	7,391,457	7,414,070

21 Long-term commitments

Operating leases

At 31 August 2025 the total of the trust's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

	2025 £	2024 £
Amounts due within one year	11,901	12,943
Amounts due in two and five years	17,788	29,688
	29,689	42,631

22 Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Net expenditure for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		(246,362)	(552,167)
Adjusted for:			
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income		(24,095)	(330,912)
Investment income receivable	6	(3,018)	(5,964)
Finance costs payable		7,523	-
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	25	(139,000)	(167,000)
Defined benefit pension scheme finance income	25	(62,000)	(46,000)
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		218,695	218,689
Decrease in stocks		-	271
Decrease/(increase) in debtors		37,354	(8,219)
Increase in creditors		122,319	25,097
Net cash used in operating activities		(88,584)	(866,205)

23 Analysis of changes in net debt

	1 September 2024	Cash flows	31 August 2025
	£	£	£
Cash	154,669	(130,270)	24,399
Loans falling due within one year	(16,633)	(605)	(17,238)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(165,589)	17,288	(148,301)
	(27,553)	(113,587)	(141,140)

24 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 he or she is a member, or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10 for the debts and liabilities contracted before he or she ceases to be a member.

25 Pension and similar obligations

The trust'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, which is managed by Lincolnshire County Council. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

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

Contributions amounting to £126,483 (2024 - £114,882) were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2025 and are included within creditors.

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 future contributions.

25 **Pension and similar obligations** **(Continued)**

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 outcome 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 £222,200 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 2028.

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £507,652 (2024: £491,406).

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 trust is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the plan. Accordingly, the 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 trust has set out above the information available on the scheme.

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 24.1% for employers and 5.5-12.5% for employees.

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 and on 21 July 2022, the Department for Education reaffirmed its commitment to the guarantee, with a parliamentary minute published on GOV.UK.

Total contributions made	**2025** **£**	**2024** **£**
Employer's contributions	489,000	493,000
Employees' contributions	118,000	117,000
Total contributions	607,000	610,000

Principal actuarial assumptions	**2025** **%**	**2024** **%**
Rate of increase in salaries	3.55	3.8
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.55	2.8
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	6.1	5.1

25 Pension and similar obligations **(Continued)**

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

	2025 Years	2024 Years
Retiring today		
- Males	21.4	19.5
- Females	23.4	22.7
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	23.0	20.7
- Females	25.1	24.1

Scheme liabilities would have been affected by changes in assumptions as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
0.5% decrease in Real Discount Rate	366,000	554,000
0.5% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	23,000	33,000
0.5% increase in the Pension Increase Rate	439,000	531,000

Defined benefit pension scheme net asset

	2025 £	2024 £
Scheme assets	4,025,000	4,490,000
Scheme obligations	(4,025,000)	(4,490,000)
Net asset	-	-

The trust's share of the assets in the scheme

	2025 Fair value £	2024 Fair value £
Equities	3,512,000	2,992,000
Bonds	783,000	759,000
Impact of asset ceiling	(2,345,000)	(970,000)
Property	483,000	388,000
Other assets	1,592,000	1,321,000
Total market value of assets	4,025,000	4,490,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £422,000 (2024: £494,000).

25 **Pension and similar obligations** **(Continued)**

Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Current service cost	350,000	326,000
Interest income	(291,000)	(247,000)
Interest cost	229,000	201,000
Total operating charge	288,000	280,000

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations

	2025 £	2024 £
At 1 September 2024	4,490,000	3,741,000
Current service cost	350,000	326,000
Interest cost	229,000	201,000
Employee contributions	118,000	117,000
Actuarial (gain)/loss	(1,043,000)	128,000
Benefits paid	(119,000)	(23,000)
At 31 August 2025	4,025,000	4,490,000

Changes in the fair value of the trust's share of scheme assets

	2025 £	2024 £
At 1 September 2024	4,490,000	3,741,000
Interest income	291,000	247,000
Actuarial gain	131,000	247,000
Employer contributions	489,000	493,000
Employee contributions	118,000	117,000
Benefits paid	(119,000)	(23,000)
Impact of asset ceiling	(1,375,000)	(332,000)
At 31 August 2025	4,025,000	4,490,000

The actuarial valuation prepared under FRS102 in respect of the Local Government Pension Scheme indicated that the Trust's share of the scheme was in surplus as at the year end to the value of £2,345,000 (2024: £970,000). The actuaries have undertaken an asset ceiling calculation which, on the basis that a minimum funding requirement does exist, indicates that none of that surplus is likely to result in either a refund of contributions or a reduction in future contributions in the future.

26 Related party transactions

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

Some of the trustees have children who are pupils at the academy, consequently there will be transactions between those trustees and the academy in respect of their children's education. These are on the same basis as other pupils at the academy.

27 Provision of childcare trading account

	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Direct income				
Other direct income		784,015		767,815
Direct costs				
Educational supplies and services	17,726		20,147	
Other costs				
Support staff costs	571,317		547,534	
Total expenditure		(589,043)		(567,681)
Surplus in the year		194,972		200,134
Transfer to main school		(194,972)		(525,926)
Deficit from all sources		-		(325,792)
Provision of childcare balances at 1 September 2024		-		325,792
Provision of childcare balances at 31 August 2025		-		-