

Kingsway Community Trust

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2025

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Reference and Administrative Details

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Members	A Yakes A Malik D Stansfield E Antrobus G Stockdale T Elliott (Appointed 2 October 2024)
Trustees	D Clemmett (Resigned 25 September 2025) T Elliott A Malik (Chair, until 21 October 2025) K Moran G Stockdale (Chair, since 22 October 2025) L Vyas A Yakas (Resigned 29 August 2025) A Ahmed E Garner S Marshall (Resigned 15 January 2025) A Musgrove R Cookson (Appointed 1 September 2025) F Gualda-Wallace (Appointed 13 October 2025)
Senior Leadership Team	L Vyas (Chief Executive Officer) (Accounting Officer) J Harriott (Head of School) H Chase (Head of School) I Caldwell (Head of School) J Usher (Chief Finance Officer) (Resigned 10 June 2025) L Cogswell (Chief Finance Officer) (Appointed 11 June 2025, Resigned 31 August 2025) M Rigby (Chief Finance Officer) (Appointed 1 September 2025)
Company name	Kingsway Community Trust
Principal and Registered Office	Ladybarn Primary School Briarfield Road Withington Manchester M20 4SR
Company Registration Number	08339302 (England and Wales)
Independent Auditor	Murray Smith LLP Darland House 44 Winnington Hill Northwich CW8 1AU

Reference and Administrative Details For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Bankers	Lloyds Bank 42-46 Market Street Manchester M1 1PW
Solicitors	Michelmores 48 Chancery Lane London WC2 1JF

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

The Trustees present their annual report together with the accounts and independent auditor's reports of the charitable company for the period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report and a directors' report under company law. The Academy Trust operates 3 primary school academies in South Manchester. Its academies have a combined pupil capacity of 1,170 and had a roll of 1,186 in the schools' census in October 2024. The pupils are admitted on the basis of distance (closest) from each particular school. The schools feed a diverse area which includes extensive social housing and private owner occupier housing. A significant proportion of families are in the top 10% most deprived nationally at both Green End and Ladybarn schools. It should be noted that the initial allocation of new pupils at the start of each academic year is administered by Manchester City Council.

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the Academy Trust. Kingsway Community Trust (KCT), which is a Multi Academy Trust (MAT), was incorporated on 21 December 2012 and commenced its activities on transfer of Ladybarn Primary School and Green End Primary School from the Local Authority on 1 September 2013. Cringle Brook Primary School is a Free School, which subsequently joined KCT and opened in April 2014. The Trustees of KCT are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. Details of the Trustees who served during the year are included in the Reference and Administrative details on page 1.

Members' Liability

Each member of the charitable company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the 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

The Trust has purchased indemnity insurance to protect the Trustees and Officers from claims arising in connection with the Academy's business. The insurance provides unlimited cover on any one claim.

Principal Activities

KCT is committed to ensuring that every child succeeds highly during their time at the schools and this commitment is at the heart of everything the Trust does. Through excellent leadership and strong

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

governance, high academic achievement, strong social skills and a sense of place in the world for every child is developed.

The Trust has a team of highly skilled teachers who deliver motivating lessons that challenge all children to achieve the best possible outcomes. Everything the children experience at Ladybarn, Green End and Cringle Brook is developed with the children in mind.

High standards from all our staff are expected and, in turn, expected from all children, with high attendance and excellent punctuality.

All parents are expected to be fully involved in their child's education and there are plenty of opportunities for them to participate in school life.

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

The Members may agree, by majority vote, to appoint up to 2 additional trustees as they see fit and may unanimously, in writing, agree to remove any such additional members.

The KCT Trustees may appoint in accordance with the Articles of the Association, the following:

1. A minimum of two parent Trustees (Parent Trustees shall be elected or appointed by the Board).
2. Up to 10 Trustees, (the number of Trustees who are employees of the Trust cannot exceed one third of the total number of Trustees including the Executive Headteacher).
3. Appointment of Trustees needs to take into consideration the needs of the Trust and the contribution, skills and experience an individual can offer. This is done in conjunction with the skills audit (undertaken by the Trust board every two years) which identifies any skill gaps that may exist within the existing Trustees.

In the event of a vacancy, the Trust's Governance Compliance Manager will identify potential trustees, using existing contacts, social media or by other means necessary. Suitability for appointment will be discussed and decided by the Board using criteria 3 above.

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees/Governors

All trustees and governors are expected to undergo induction training in accordance with the Trust's Induction policy. Mandatory training is provided for new Trustees/Governors and, where necessary, training is provided on charity, educational, legal and financial matters.

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

The Chair of the Trust Board, Executive Headteacher and the SLT undertake training and induction of any new Governors and Trustees. As part of the induction process, all new Governors and Trustees are given a briefing on the aims, values and drivers of the Trust. New trustees are given a tour of the facilities and an introduction to staff and students. All Governors and Trustees are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as Governors and Trustees. All Governors and Trustees sign the Trust's Governance Code of Conduct, which includes adhering to the Nolan Principles of public life.

The Trust is a member of the National Governors Association (NGA) which provides access to training and support for Trustees/Governors. It also subscribes to the Confederation of Schools Trust where governors and trustees can access governor support and information. During the year under review, Trustees/Governors have completed the following training:

- Chairs briefing - MCC
- Level 1 Safeguarding
- New Governor training
- CST Finance and Finance training session by the Chair of the Trust Board
- SEND training
- SLT away day on Sustainability and Curriculum

Organisational Structure

The Trust is governed by its Trust Board who are Directors of the charitable company for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006 and Trustees for the purposes of charity legislation. The organisational structure of the Trust consists of three levels –

- (i) the Trust Board
- (ii) the Executive Headteacher and
- (iii) the Senior Leadership team (SLT)

The Trust Board is responsible for setting policy, strategy & monitoring the Trust's performance and there is a detailed Scheme of Delegation, which stipulates what tasks and responsibilities have been delegated to each committee. Certain elements are delegated to the following committees:

- Finance, Risk and Audit Committee (FRAC)
- Cringle Brook Local Governing Committee
- Green End & Ladybarn Local Governing Committee
- Personnel and Performance Management Committee
- Critical Incident Committee – this committee only comes into being if an emergency is declared such as a global pandemic.

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

The Executive Headteacher is also the Accounting Officer and has executive responsibility for implementing the strategy and policy agreed by the Trustees and reporting back to them. The Executive Headteacher is supported by the SLT.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The Trust has a robust and evidence-based methodology for setting executive pay. The Executive Headteacher's pay award is based on a combination of factors such as benchmarking with other MATs, clearly defined objectives/targets and advice from external expert consultants. The Personnel & Performance Management Committee (PPMC) agrees to the award.

Other key management personnel pay awards are set using the National Teachers Pay and Conditions 2024 and individual salary ranges are agreed by the PPMC. Again, a methodology of clear objectives is set and only when these are achieved will increment awards be approved by the PPMC. The PPMC ensures that all the pay awards are transparent, proportionate and justifiable.

Trade Union facility time

Relevant Union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	3
Full-time equivalent employee number	2.6

Percentage of time spent on facility time	Number of employees
0% - 1%	3
1% - 50%	1
51% - 99%	Nil
100%	Nil

Total cost of facility time	£115.08
Total pay bill	£6,941,320
Percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time	0.002 %

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Included in the total facility time costs is a payment of £9,754 that represents a payment to Manchester City Council (MCC) to allow KCT staff access to and support from MCC union representatives.

Paid Trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage as a percentage of total paid facility time hours Nil %

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	Nil %
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Risk management

The Trust Board and the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) are responsible for identifying the risks faced by the Trust, establishing procedures to mitigate these risks and ensuring that employees are aware of these procedures and the implications of failing to implement them. They are satisfied that these procedures are consistent with the guidelines issued by the Charity Commission.

The Trust Board have assessed the major risks to which the Trust is exposed, in particular those relating to the buildings and related facilities, teaching and learning and the operations of the Academy.

Trustees are presented with a monthly Risk Register that covers many areas of risk such as Finance, Premises, Pupils, Staff, Catering. All risks are scored, RAG-rated and prioritised accordingly. Trustees are then able to clearly monitor how these risks are being dealt with and see the risk level decreasing or the risk being removed once solved.

Risk management is embedded in the governance of the Trust. Finance, Risk and Audit Committee (FRAC) maintains oversight on the Trust's Risk Management plan. Key risks identified are reviewed by the various Trust committees (Local Governing Committees and the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee) and reported to the Trust Board.

Connected Organisations and Related Party Relationships

Although there are a number of professional links to other schools and third-party organisations, the Trust is an independent company with no affiliations to outside bodies. The Trust also works closely with a wide variety of other bodies in the education sector.

None of these organisations are considered to constitute formal related parties.

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Objectives, Strategies and Activities Objects and Aims

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

The Academy Trust's objective is to advance for the public benefit, education in the United Kingdom but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing the primary schools within the Trust, offering a broad and balanced curriculum. Our Trust

- Provides a nurturing and safe environment where excellence and diversity are valued and celebrated;
- Creates enthusiasm for learning that will shape young people's lives and future chances;
- Enables children to build friendships and relationships through respect, teamwork and valuing their community;
- Harnesses all children's potential so that there are no limits as to what they can achieve;
- Never forget that we are at the heart of the community we serve.

In addition to the above aims, the Trust produces an Annual Schools' Improvement Plan, which sets out the priorities for the forthcoming year as well as reviewing those of the past period. The plan covers the key improvement activities that take place through the school year. The Trust Board also produces an Annual Governance Development Plan.

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.

Achievements and Performance

Achievements in the Year

What have been the academic successes this year?

- Ofsted inspections of both Ladybarn and Cringle Brook have resulted in favourable outcomes and feedback.
- Internal monitoring and external quality assurance visits validated that teaching and learning is of a high standard, pupil attitude and behaviour is outstanding and expectations high.
- Pupil Premium - this was used to target children both individually and in groups to raise attainment, experiences and aspiration, develop a range of social skills and support children and their families.

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

- Sport and Primary PE grants - these have been used effectively to promote physical activity and increase pupil fitness levels. The Trust's 'My Personal Best', a high intensity fitness programme which motivated pupils and continues to successfully raise fitness levels from year 1 to 6.

How Do School Leaders and Trustees/Governors Promote School Improvement?

Each member of the Senior Leadership Team is a leader of at least one aspect of the School Improvement Plan, working as a strong team to improve learning and to raise standards. Pupil voice, through surveys and events and parent consultation, through regular surveys, mean that the whole school community is part of the consultation and decision-making process. Trustees each have lead oversight in a key aspect of the Trust and meet with operational leads throughout the academic year. The Executive Headteacher works with all aspects of the Trust community to identify priorities, plan and action developments for these and to closely monitor outcomes.

How Much Progress Have Pupils Made?

When children start in the Early Years and Foundation Stage they join us with a range of abilities, with the vast majority at starting points well below those expected of their age group. Due to the focus we give to individual needs, high quality teaching and aspirational targets across the school for all children, by the end of year 6, the vast majority have made extremely good individual progress with the outcomes above the national average in all three schools.

Key performance Indicators

How do school leaders and Trustees/Governors promote school improvement?

The Trust Board monitors school improvement priorities through regular meetings to discuss progress, through in-depth analysis of both internal and external evidence, including group analysis of the external performance data. Quality Assurance School Improvement Reports undertaken through the Local Authority are also circulated to trustees and governors. It also spends time on scrutiny of documentation and ensures that a rigorous appraisal procedure of the Executive Headteacher and staff is adhered to. All staff, trustees and governors strive to ensure that all the children in the Trust work hard and achieve their highest potential.

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Assessment outcomes 2025

(i) KS1 results

Phonics (%)

	Cringle Brook	Green End	Ladybarn	National 25
Year 1	93	82	83	80

(i) Key Stage 2 results

Expected level

Year 6	Cringle Brook	Green End	Ladybarn	National 25
Reading	88	89	78	75
Writing	88	89	83	72
Maths	88	88	84	74
Combined	75	80	76	62

Plans for the Future

The Trust will continue to

- Strive to ensure that all students can realise their potential in both academic and non-academic terms.
- Be outward looking, encourage, and inspire everyone in our community to believe and achieve their best.
- Ensure that the curriculum is relevant and inspiring for our community and resources are stimulating and meet pupil needs.
- Ensure appropriate access for all groups within the school

Financial Review

Revenue income received in the year relates predominantly to grants received from the Department for Education (DfE) in the form of the General Annual Grant and Pupil Premium grant which are shown as Restricted General Funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Several other grants have been received (from both the DfE and the Local Authority) with the most significant being as follows :

- (i) Universal Free School Meals – this is a grant to provide all children from Reception to Year 2 with free school meals
- (ii) Early Years – this partially funds the provision of places for the Nursery aged pupils
- (iii) Higher Needs – this is specific funding for pupils who have an Education Health and Care Plan
- (iv) Devolved Formula Capital - an annual amount paid to schools each year to be used towards capital, premises and IT costs
- (v) TPAG - Teachers Pay Additional Grant
- (vi) CSBG – Core Schools Budget Grant
- (vii) TPECG- Teachers Pension Employer Contribution Grant

Excluding the restricted fixed asset funds, the Trust has had a total income of £8,440,515 which was less than the total expenditure of £8,788,431.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The principal risks are reviewed by the Trustees and are summarised as follows:

- The pay award for support staff was not fully funded, requiring the Trust to absorb additional costs within existing budgets.
- High levels of inflation, affecting all cost areas without adequate funding to cover this.
- Ongoing reliance on reserves to cover unpredictable building repairs and maintenance costs, compounded by high staffing and operational expenses, limited funding and retrospective pay obligations.
- Cash flow pressures caused by rising operational costs, timing differences in funding receipts, and one-off obligations such as retrospective pay increases.
- Insufficient SEN funding to cover rising staff costs, driven by a growing number of pupils with additional educational needs across all three schools. Many of these needs are unfunded by Manchester City Council, requiring the Trust to allocate additional resources, creating significant financial pressures.
- Challenges with staff recruitment led to high levels of supply costs.

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Financial Strategy

The purpose of this strategy is to outline the factors to be considered, and the drivers which should inform spending decisions within the Trust. All expenditure should be directed towards furtherance of the educational aims of the Trust. To support these aims, funds will be directed as appropriate toward the following areas:

- Maintenance of a high-quality educational provision for all pupils, encompassing both core and a wide range of enrichment activities within the curriculum
- Maintenance of adequate levels of cash and working capital to ensure financial security for the operations of the Trust
- The need to invest in capital projects as required to ensure that the estate and infrastructure remain fit for purpose and able to support the educational objectives of the Trust
- The need to invest in training and development of staff.

Where funds are limited, it will be necessary to prioritise expenditure. The following may be considered when prioritising expenditure:

- The educational needs of the pupils
- Maintenance of intergenerational equity, to ensure that all generations of pupils passing through the school receive the benefit of resources available
- The business case and expected benefits for new developments and capital projects
- The ability to defer capital projects or expenditure
- Achieving a mix of levels of experience in staff
- Evaluation of the effectiveness of ongoing initiatives

Where possible, the Trust should seek to maximise financial resources available by such activities as:

- Introducing income generating activities where appropriate (e.g. from use of facilities)
- Ensuring that a value for money culture is embedded in the business and good procurement practices are in place, including obtaining appropriate quotes before committing to expenditure, making use of established procurement frameworks and group purchasing opportunities
- Ensuring that cash reserves are invested in interest bearing accounts
- Ensuring that good financial processes and controls are embedded in the business to reduce the risk of financial losses and fraud.

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Reserves Policy

The policy of the Trust is to carry forward a prudent level of resources designed to meet the long-term plan and any unforeseen contingencies subject to the levels permitted by the Department of Education. The Trustees updated its reserves policy, and the key points are detailed below.

Reserves are held to ensure that the Trust has sufficient resources to continue to advance the education of pupils. There are a number of constraints placed upon academies in terms of financial management. One of these constraints is the inability to borrow funds. This constraint represents a key risk to KCT in relation to financial planning and monitoring. One of the ways in which KCT mitigates this risk is through the effective management of reserves, which provide alternative temporary funding streams should there be a delay in grant receipts or a sudden unforeseen increase in expenditure.

The total amount of funds at 31 August 2025 are £13,901,211.

- Unrestricted general funds £308,955
- Restricted general funds (£22,467)
- Restricted pension funds £Nil
- Restricted fixed asset funds £13,614,723

Full reserve details and disclosures can be found in Note 14 of the financial statements.

The Trust's general reserves stand at £286,488 as at 31 August 2025 (2024: £756,255). The reduction reflects significant financial pressures during the year, including increases in staff costs, higher operational costs without the funding to cover the increases. These factors required the Trust to draw on reserves to maintain staffing levels and meet obligations. Looking ahead, the Trust recognises the risk of further pressure on reserves and is implementing mitigation measures, including tighter budget controls, efficiency savings, and exploring additional income streams to protect financial sustainability.

The following restrictions should be noted regarding the reserves. The DfE are able to set limits on the sum of GAG that can be carried forward from one year to the next. There are currently no limits in place. Also, the DfE does expect academies to use their allocated funding for the full benefit of their current pupils.

Therefore, the Trust will not build up a substantial surplus without having in place a clear plan for how it will be used to benefit our pupils. Finally, the use of reserves is subject to approval by the Trust's Finance Risk & Audit Committee.

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

The Trustees are responsible for ensuring the funds are maintained and that reserves are used only as described in this policy. Access to reserves requires analysis of the reason for the request of reserves, the availability of any other sources of funds before using reserves and evaluation of the time period that the funds will be required. Authorisation to use the reserves should be obtained at the next Finance Risk & Audit Committee meeting. Upon approval, the Trust will keep a record of the use of these funds.

The Trustees intend to review the reserve levels of the Trust annually. This review will consider the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. A cautious and low risk approach has been taken in forecasts of both income and expenditure.

The Trust receives donations given for certain purposes. Whilst every endeavour will be made to meet the donor's original wishes, the Trust reserves the right to allocate this income against the general expenditure of the Trust, which is aligned to the educational purposes of the Trust.

Investment Policy and Powers

The Trust has developed a finance and investment strategy that would allow any surplus funds to be deposited in an interest-bearing account. At present this would be dependent on cash flow.

Financial Oversight

As the Trust Board meets less than 6 times a year, the Trust must ensure it has sufficient mechanisms in place to ensure robust governance and effective financial management is maintained. This is done by the management accounts being issued monthly to all members of the Trust Board. This ensures there is full transparency over the financial position of the Trust.

Fundraising

The Trustees are committed to ensuring that fundraising activities are carried out in an ethical manner. In doing so, the Trust will adhere to the following standards:

- The Trustees will have regard to the Charity commissions publication 'Charity Fundraising' (CC20).
- Fundraising activities carried out by the school will comply with all relevant laws.
- Any communications to the public made in the course of carrying out a fundraising activity shall be truthful and non-deceptive.
- All monies raised via fundraising activities will be for the stated purpose of the appeal and will comply with the school's stated mission and purpose.

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

- All personal information collected by the school is confidential and is not for sale or to be given away or disclosed to any third party without consent.
- Nobody directly or indirectly employed by or volunteering for the school shall accept commissions, bonuses or payments for fundraising activities on behalf of the organisation.
- No general solicitations shall be undertaken by telephone or door-to-door.
- Fundraising activities should not be undertaken if they may be detrimental to the good name or community standing of the school.
- Financial contributions will only be accepted from companies, organisations and individuals the Board considers ethical. All Trustees, temporary & permanent staff and volunteers are responsible for adhering to these procedures.
- Any fundraising activity will report regularly to the FRAC, including tabling of meeting minutes at full Trustees meetings.
- Fundraising activities should not be undertaken if they will expose the organisation to significant financial risk.
- Complaints will be dealt with in accordance with the Charity Commissions guide CC20.

Going concern

Following appropriate enquiries, the Trust Board considers it reasonable to expect that the Academy Trust will have sufficient resources to continue operating for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, the Board of Trustees has adopted the going concern basis in preparing these financial statements.

The Board recognises the challenges posed by recurring losses and is actively implementing a comprehensive programme of financial efficiencies and cost-saving initiatives aimed at mitigating these impacts and strengthening the Trust's financial position. These measures are designed to support sustainability and improve operational resilience.

Further information on the adoption of the going concern basis is provided in the statement of accounting policies and in Note 26.

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Auditor

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware
- 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.

The auditors, Murray Smith LLP, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

The Trustee's Report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 16 December 2025 and signed on the board's behalf by:

Signed by:

51B86AD994874A0...

G Stockdale
Chair

Governance Statement

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Scope of Responsibility

As Trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Kingsway Community Trust (KCT) 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 Trust Board has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Executive Headteacher, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform to 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 KCT and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Trust Board 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 Trust Board Trustees has formally met 4 times during the year ended August 2025. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Trust Board was as follows:

<u>Trustee</u>	<u>Meetings attended</u>	<u>Out of a possible</u>
K Moran	3	4
A Malik (Chair – until 21.10.25)	3	4
L Vyas	4	4
A Yakas	3	4
D Clemmett	3	4
T Elliott	4	4
G Stockdale (Chair – from 22.10.25)	4	4
Alice Musgrove	4	4
Sarah Marshall	2	2
Almeena Ahmed	2	4
Emma Garner	2	4

Governance Statement

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

The Trust board has determined that it is able to convene four times a year and maintain effective oversight, particularly as the Chair of the Board meets regularly with the Executive Headteacher to monitor progress and is kept informed of any pertinent matters, which may arise from time to time. Trustees receive regular management accounts relating to the financial position and, from time to time, are provided with other relevant reports relating to matters at the School. Email communications have continued to prove to be an effective way in which to keep Trustees informed between meetings. Trustees are also encouraged to visit any of the schools at any time to meet with the Executive Headteacher and other employees or simply to observe aspects of the school day.

The Finance Risk and Audit Committee (FRAC) is a sub-committee of the main Trust Board. Its purpose is to ensure that the schools operate within all appropriate Financial Regulations and to guide and assist the Executive Headteacher, the Heads of School and the Trust Board in all budget and financial matters. Its purpose is also to review the overall risk profile of the Multi Academy Trust (MAT) and to monitor the risk management techniques employed at all levels within the Trust. In addition, it reviews the effectiveness of financial controls and advises the governing body of all aspects of audit.

During the period the FRAC reviewed and approved a number of key policies. The committee reviewed revised and enhanced budget monitoring reports. All DfE submissions are approved by the Accounting Officer and monitored by FRAC to ensure DfE reporting deadlines are being met. Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

<u>Trustee</u>	<u>Meetings attended</u>	<u>Out of a possible</u>
A Malik	2	4
L Vyas	4	4
T Elliott	4	4
G Stockdale (Chair from 22.10.25)	4	4
Alice Musgrove	3	3

Review of Value for Money

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

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

Governance Statement

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

- Review of contracts in place to identify opportunities to negotiate better terms and/or reduce the utilisation of goods and services to ensure a better return from the money spent and services provided.
- Further rigour in assessing the financial position of the Trust over the longer term.
- Identification of improvements to financial controls/systems to reduce the risk of improper use of public money.

The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

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

Capacity to Handle Risk

The Trust Board has reviewed the key risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Trust Board is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks, which has been in place for the year 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Trust Board.

Key risks

The board of Trustees consider the key risks facing the trust and their mitigating factors to be the following:

- The pay award for support staff was not fully funded, requiring the Trust to absorb additional costs within existing budgets.
- High levels of inflation, affecting all cost areas without adequate funding to cover this.
- Ongoing reliance on reserves to cover unpredictable building repairs and maintenance costs, compounded by high staffing and operational expenses, limited funding and retrospective pay obligations.
- Cash flow pressures caused by rising operational costs, timing differences in funding receipts, and one-off obligations such as retrospective pay increases.
- Insufficient SEN funding to cover rising staff costs, driven by a growing number of pupils with additional educational needs across all three schools. Many of these needs are unfunded by Manchester City Council, requiring the Trust to allocate additional resources, creating significant financial pressures.
- Challenges with staff recruitment led to high levels of supply costs.

Governance Statement

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Will continue to closely monitor all spending and ensure that we get best value for all transactions.

The Risk and Control Framework

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

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

The FRAC considered the need for a specific internal audit function and decided to have an internal scrutiny audit carried out by an outside internal audit firm during the financial year. This covered:

1. Cyber Security

Review of effectiveness

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

- the work of the internal auditor;
- the work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- the work of the external auditors.

The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee and a plan to ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Governance Statement

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Conclusion

Based on the advice of the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee and the Accounting Officer, the Board of Trustees is of the opinion that the Academy Trust has an adequate and effective framework for governance, risk management and control.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 16 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Signed by:

51B86AD994874A0...

G Stockdale
Chair of Trustees

Signed by:

827786B1BB374FA...

L Vyas
Accounting Officer

Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

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

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

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

Signed by:

827786B1BB374FA...

L Vyas
Accounting Officer
16 December 2025

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

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

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

The trustees are responsible for ensuring that in its conduct and operation the charitable company applies financial and other controls which conform with the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring grants received from the ESFA/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

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 16 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Signed by:

51B86AD994874A0...

G Stockdale
Chair of Trustees

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Kingsway Community Trust

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Kingsway Community 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 financial statements. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, 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), and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by the Department for Education (DfE).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Academy Trust's affairs as at 31 August 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the period 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 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 Auditors responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Academy Trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Material uncertainty related to going concern

We draw attention to Note 26 in the financial statements, which indicates that the current and projected level of losses may cast significant doubt on the Academy's ability to continue as a going concern. As stated in Note 26, these events or conditions, along with other matters as set forth in Note 26, 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.

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Kingsway Community Trust

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

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

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' Report, but does not include the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

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

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

Opinion 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 Strategic Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- The Trustees' Report and the Strategic Report have 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 Academy Trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

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

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Kingsway Community Trust

- proper accounting records have not been kept;
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- all the information and explanations required for the audit were not received.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities set out in the trustee's annual report, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Board of Trustees determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Board of Trustees is responsible for assessing the Academy Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Board of Trustees either intends to liquidate the Academy Trust or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

The audit procedures designed to identify irregularities included:

- enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims
- enquiry of Academy Trust staff with responsibilities for compliance matters to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations
- reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Kingsway Community Trust


- auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, intentional misrepresentations or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the 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 Members, as a body, those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Academy Trust and the Members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

DocuSigned by:

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Nicola Tucker FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Murray Smith LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
Darland House
44 Winnington Hill
Northwich
Cheshire
CW8 1AU

Date 18-12-2025

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Kingsway Community Trust and the Secretary of State for Education

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

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

Respective responsibilities of the accounting officer of Kingsway Community Trust and the reporting accountant

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

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

Approach

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

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Kingsway Community Trust and the Secretary of State for Education

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- review of arrangements in place over financial management; and
- review of the Trust's expenditure during the year.

Conclusion

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

DocuSigned by:

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Murray Smith LLP

Date

18-12-2025

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
Darland House
44 Winnington Hill
Northwich
Cheshire CW8 1AU

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted General funds	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
		£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	2	10,484	-	24,944	35,428	57,167
Charitable activities:						
Funding for the Academy Trust's educational activities	3	24,287	8,343,977	-	8,368,264	7,655,467
Other trading activities	4	52,399	-	-	52,399	145,868
Investments	5	9,368	-	-	9,368	14,618
Total income		96,538	8,343,977	24,944	8,465,459	7,873,120
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds		-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities:						
Academy Trust educational operations	7	69,641	8,718,790	300,191	9,088,622	8,518,602
Other		-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure		69,641	8,718,790	300,191	9,088,622	8,518,602
Net income / (expenditure)		26,897	(374,813)	(275,247)	(623,163)	(645,482)
Transfers between funds	14	(159,476)	147,625	11,851	-	-
Other recognised gains / (losses):						
Actuarial gains / (losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	24	-	(110,000)	-	(110,000)	(72,000)
Net movement in funds		(132,579)	(337,188)	(263,396)	(733,163)	(717,482)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		441,534	314,721	13,878,119	14,634,374	15,351,856
Total funds carried forward		308,955	(22,467)	13,614,723	13,901,211	14,634,374

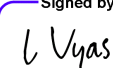
Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2025

	Notes	31 August 2025 £	31 August 2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	11	13,565,455	13,853,795
Current assets			
Debtors	12	202,191	193,355
Cash at bank and in hand		358,223	905,504
		560,414	1,098,859
Current Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(224,658)	(318,280)
Net current assets		335,756	780,579
Total assets less current liabilities		13,901,211	14,634,374
Creditors – amounts falling due after more than one year		-	-
Net assets excluding pension asset/ liability		13,901,211	14,634,374
Defined benefit pension scheme asset/(liability)	24	-	-
Total net assets		13,901,211	14,634,374
Funds of the Academy Trust:			
Restricted funds			
Fixed asset fund	14	13,614,723	13,878,119
Restricted income fund	14	(22,467)	314,721
Pension reserve	14	-	-
Total restricted funds		13,592,256	14,192,840
Unrestricted income funds	14	308,955	441,534
Total funds		13,901,211	14,634,374

The financial statements on pages 31 to 60 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 16 December 2025 and are signed on their behalf by:

Signed by:

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G Stockdale
Chair

Signed by:

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L Vyas
Accounting Officer

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2025

		Year ended 31 August 2025 £	Year ended 31 August 2024 £
	Note		
Cash flow from operating activities			
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	18	(569,742)	(386,102)
Cash flows from investing activities	20	22,461	611
Cash flows from financing activities	19	-	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(547,281)	(385,491)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2024		905,504	1,290,995
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2025	21	358,223	905,504

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

1. Accounting policies

Kingsway Community Trust is a charitable company, incorporated in England and Wales. The address of the principal place of business is given on page 1 and the nature of its operations are set out in the Trustees' report.

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

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements of the Academy Trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (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.

Going Concern

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

Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention as modified by the use of previous valuations as deemed cost at transition for certain non-current assets.

Income

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

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

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 (GAG) 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.

Sponsorship Income

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

Donations

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

Investment Income

All income from short term deposit accounts is credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which it is earned on a receivable basis.

Other Income

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

Donated goods, facilities and services

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

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

Donated fixed assets (excluding Transfers on conversion/into the Academy Trust)

Where the donated good is a fixed asset it is measured at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor should be 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 Academy Trust's accounting policies.

Expenditure

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

Expenditure on Raising Funds

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

Charitable Activities

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT, where applicable.

Tangible Fixed Assets

Assets costing £5,000 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. Where there are specific conditions attached to the funding requiring the continued use of the asset, 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 the

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

relevant assets is charged directly to the restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

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

Freehold and leasehold property	– 50 years
Leasehold land	– 125 years
Furniture and equipment	– 10 years
Computer equipment	– 5 years

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

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

Subsequent expenditure on existing fixed assets

Where significant expenditure is incurred on tangible fixed assets after initial purchase it is charged to the statement of financial activities in the period it is incurred unless it increases the future benefits to the Trust, in which case it is capitalised and depreciated on the relevant basis.

Short term employment benefits

Short term employment benefits such as salaries and compensated absences (holiday pay) are recognised as an expense in the year in which the employees render service to the Academy Trust. Any unused benefits are accrued and measured as the additional amount the Academy Trust expects to pay as a result of the unused entitlement.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash includes cash in hand, deposits repayable on demand and overdrafts. Deposits are repayable on demand if they are in practice available within 24 hours without penalty.

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

Cash equivalents are short term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value. An investment qualifies as a cash equivalent when it has a maturity of 3 months or less from the date of acquisition.

Liabilities

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

Provisions

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

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

Leased Assets

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

Financial Instruments

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

Financial assets – trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

Financial liabilities – trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost. 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

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

Taxation

The Academy 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 Academy Trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by part 11, chapter 3 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Pensions Benefits

Retirement benefits to employees of the Academy Trust are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme ('TPS') and the Local Government Pension Scheme ('LGPS'). These are defined benefit schemes.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the Academy 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 prospective unit credit method. 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 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 Academy 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 operating surplus 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

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

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.

Fund Accounting

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

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

Restricted general funds comprise all other restricted funds received with restrictions imposed by the funder/donor and include grants from the Department for Education (DfE).

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit asset or liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 24, will impact the carrying amount of the pension asset/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 asset/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 asset/liability.

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

2. Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Capital grants	-	24,944	24,944	24,834
Other donations	10,484	-	10,484	32,333
Total	10,484	24,944	35,428	57,167

3. Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
DfE / ESFA grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	5,925,470	5,925,470	5,569,541
Other DfE/ESFA grants				
UIFSM	-	111,767	111,767	117,773
Pupil premium	-	656,228	656,228	625,984
Teachers' pay and pension grant	-	214,944	214,944	140,878
Mainstream schools additional grant	-	-	-	182,306
Core schools budget grant	-	205,626	205,626	-
Others	-	67,081	67,081	141,154
Other Government grants				
Local Authority grants	-	1,027,467	1,027,467	877,831
Other income from the Academy Trust's educational operations	24,287	135,394	159,681	-
	24,287	8,343,977	8,368,264	7,655,467

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

4. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Hire of facilities	25,113	-	25,113	14,940
Income from other charitable activities	7,296	-	7,296	105,154
Income from ancillary trading activities	19,990	-	19,990	25,774
Total	52,399	-	52,399	145,868

5. Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Short term deposits - interest	9,368	-	9,368	14,618
Total	9,368	-	9,368	14,618

6. Expenditure

	Staff Costs £	Premises £	Other £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
<i>Expenditure on raising funds:</i>					
Direct costs	-	-	-	-	-
Allocated support costs	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Academy Trust's educational operations:</i>					
Direct costs	6,483,319	-	490,043	6,973,362	6,503,588
Allocated support costs	1,092,679	399,796	622,785	2,115,260	2,015,014
Total	7,575,998	399,796	1,112,828	9,088,622	8,518,602

Net expenditure for the period includes:

	2025 £	2024 £
Operating lease rentals	6,139	12,400
Depreciation	300,191	303,746
Fees payable to auditor for:		
-audit	11,250	10,350
-other services	5,250	7,060

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

7. Charitable activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Direct costs – educational operations	6,973,362	6,503,588
Support costs – educational operations	2,115,260	2,015,014
	9,088,622	8,518,602

Analysis of support costs

	2025	2024
	Educational Operations	Educational Operations
	£	£
Support staff costs	1,092,679	1,026,815
Depreciation	76,126	71,199
Technology costs	93,400	75,602
Premises costs	399,796	558,235
Legal costs – other	3,809	2,096
Other support costs	441,906	253,017
Governance costs	7,544	28,050
Total support costs	2,115,260	2,015,014

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

8. Staff

a Staff costs and employee benefits

Staff costs during the period were:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	5,303,381	5,003,766
Social security costs	537,858	490,394
Pension costs	1,100,081	944,815
Other employee benefits	-	-
	6,941,320	6,438,975
Agency staff costs	634,678	504,702
Staff restructuring costs	-	-
Total staff costs	7,575,998	6,943,677

b. Staff numbers

The average number of persons employed by the Academy Trust during the period was:

	2025	2024
	No	No
Teachers	54	55
Administration and support	155	155
Management	5	5
	214	215

c. Higher paid staff

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

	2025	2024
	No	No
£60,001 to £70,000	5	3
£70,001 to £80,000	-	1
£80,001 to £90,000	1	2
£90,001 to £100,000	2	-
£160,001 to £170,000	1	1

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

8. Staff (continued)

d. Key management personnel

Key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the trustees and the senior leadership team as listed on page 1. 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 Academy Trust was £699,840 (2024: £647,895).

9. Related party transactions – Trustees’ remuneration and expenses

One or more trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from employment with the Academy Trust. The principal and other staff trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of Principal and staff members under their contracts of employment, and not in respect of their roles as Trustees. The value of Trustees’ remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

L Vyas (Chief Executive Officer and Trustee)

Remuneration £160,000-£165,000 (2024: £160,000-£165,000)

Employer’s pension contributions £40,000-£45,000 (2024: £40,000-£45,000)

During the year ended 31 August 2025 travel and subsistence expenses totalling £29 were reimbursed or paid directly to 1 trustees (2024: 1 trustee £304).

10. Trustees and Officers’ Insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice the Academy Trust has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy Trust business. The insurance provides cover up to £10,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2025 was £29,205 (2024: £26,412).

The cost of the insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Leasehold land and buildings	Furniture and equipment	Computer equipment	Total
Cost or valuation	£	£	£	£	£
At 1 September 2024	2,344,844	13,568,375	733,887	102,280	16,749,386
Additions	-	5,051	6,800	-	11,851
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2025	2,344,844	13,573,426	740,687	102,280	16,761,237
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2024	340,461	1,951,824	556,554	46,752	2,895,591
Charge for period	37,897	186,167	62,026	14,101	300,191
Eliminated in respect of disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2025	378,358	2,137,991	618,580	60,853	3,195,782
Net book value at 31 August 2024	2,004,383	11,616,551	177,333	55,528	13,853,795
Net book value at 31 August 2025	1,966,486	11,435,435	122,107	41,427	13,565,455

12. Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	4,620	7,085
Other debtors	3,169	667
VAT recoverable	5,701	282
Prepayments and accrued income	188,701	185,321
	202,191	193,355

Notes to the accounts**For the Year Ended 31 August 2025****13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	50,685	153,956
Other taxation and social security	-	-
Other creditors	17,282	19
Accruals and deferred income	156,691	164,305
	224,658	318,280

	2025	2024
	£	£
Deferred income at 31 August 2024	72,338	74,883
Released from previous years	(72,338)	(74,883)
Resources deferred in year	72,522	72,338
Deferred income at 31 August 2025	72,522	72,338

At the balance sheet date the Academy Trust was holding the following funds received in advance:

	2025	2024
	£	£
UIFSM	65,957	68,703
Trips income	6,565	3,635
	72,522	72,338

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

14. Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2024	Income	Expenditure	Gains (Losses) and Transfers	Balance at 31 August 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted General Funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	314,721	5,925,470	(6,410,283)	147,625	(22,467)
DfE/ESFA grants	-	599,418	(599,418)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	656,228	(656,228)	-	-
LEA grants	-	1,027,467	(1,027,467)	-	-
Other restricted income	-	135,394	(135,394)	-	-
Pension Reserve	-	-	110,000	(110,000)	-
	314,721	8,343,977	(8,718,790)	37,625	(22,467)
Restricted Fixed Asset Funds					
Land and buildings	13,878,119	24,944	(300,191)	11,851	13,614,723
	13,878,119	24,944	(300,191)	11,851	13,614,723
Total Restricted Funds	14,192,840	8,368,921	(9,018,981)	49,476	13,592,256
Total Unrestricted Funds	441,534	96,538	(69,641)	(159,476)	308,955
Total Funds	14,634,374	8,465,459	(9,088,622)	(110,000)	13,901,211

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

Restricted general funds are used specifically to provide education resources for the pupils of the Trust.

General Annual Grant Funds

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Trust must use these funds for the normal running expenses of the school, and any amounts carried forward at the end of a financial period must be used in accordance with the terms of the Funding Agreement.

Other DfE/ESFA Grants

These comprise additional funding received for furtherance of education, which must be used in accordance with the specific terms of each grant.

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

14. Funds (continued)

Pension Reserve

This represents the recognition of the Trust's share of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Other funds within restricted general funds are restricted and spent in line with the criteria attached to them.

Restricted fixed assets funds provide for the installation, maintenance and repair of the fixed assets of the Trust.

Unrestricted funds are those other resources which may be used to further the objectives of the Trust.

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

Comparative information in respect of the previous 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)	438,427	5,569,541	(6,175,624)	482,377	314,721
DfE/ESFA grants	-	582,110	(582,110)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	625,984	(625,984)	-	-
LEA grants	-	877,832	(877,832)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	25,306	(25,306)	-	-
Pension Reserve	-	-	72,000	(72,000)	-
	438,427	7,680,773	(8,214,856)	410,377	314,721
Restricted Fixed Asset Funds					
Land and buildings	14,164,243	24,834	(303,746)	(7,212)	13,878,119
	14,164,243	24,834	(303,746)	(7,212)	13,878,119
Total Restricted Funds	14,602,670	7,705,607	(8,518,602)	403,165	14,192,840
Total Unrestricted Funds	749,186	167,513	-	(475,165)	441,534
Total Funds	15,351,856	7,873,120	(8,518,602)	(72,000)	14,634,374

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

14. Funds (continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

The academy trust's reserves policy is that cumulative school reserves are to be pooled. Therefore, total unrestricted and restricted general funds for the Trust have been recognised in central services.

Fund balances for each academy 31 August 2025 and 31 August 2024 were zero, hence a breakdown by academy is not included in these accounts.

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and Educational Support Staff Costs £	Other Support Staff Costs £	Educational Supplies £	Other Costs (excluding depreciation) £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Ladybarn Primary School	2,659,625	435,004	89,923	360,718	3,545,270	3,314,835
Green End Primary School	2,709,275	412,649	84,758	392,615	3,599,297	3,403,007
Cringle Brook Primary School	1,114,419	245,026	78,177	206,242	1,643,864	1,569,011
Academy Trust	6,483,319	1,092,679	252,858	959,575	8,788,431	8,286,853

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

15. Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2025 are represented by:

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted General Funds	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	13,565,455	13,565,455
Current assets	308,955	202,191	49,268	560,414
Current liabilities	-	(224,658)	-	(224,658)
Pension scheme liabilities	-	-	-	-
Total net assets	308,955	(22,467)	13,614,723	13,901,211

Comparative information in respect of the previous period as at 31 August 2024 is as follows:

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted General Funds	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	13,853,795	13,853,795
Current assets	441,534	633,001	24,324	1,098,859
Current liabilities	-	(318,280)	-	(318,280)
Pension scheme liabilities	-	-	-	-
Total net assets	441,534	314,721	13,878,119	14,634,374

16. Capital and other commitments

	2025	2024
	£	£
Commitments contracted for, but not provided for at 31 August	-	-

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

17. Long-term commitments, including operating leases

Operating leases

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

	2025	2024
	£	£
Amounts due within one year	3,992	10,462
Amounts due between one and five years	3,265	1,481
Amounts due after five years	-	-
	7,257	11,943

18. Reconciliation of net income/ (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Net income / (expenditure) for the period	(623,163)	(645,482)
Adjusted for:		
Depreciation	300,191	303,746
Capital grants from DfE and other capital grants	(24,944)	(24,834)
Interest paid	-	-
Interest receivable	(9,368)	(14,618)
Defined benefit scheme cost less contributions payable	(47,000)	(26,000)
Defined pension scheme finance cost	(63,000)	(46,000)
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	(8,836)	93,320
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	(93,622)	(26,234)
Net cash provided by operating activities	(569,742)	(386,102)

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

19. Cash flows from financing activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Repayments of borrowing	-	-
Cash inflows from new borrowing	-	-
Interest paid	-	-
Net cash provided by / (used in) financing activities	-	-

20. Cash flows from investing activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	9,368	14,618
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(11,851)	(38,841)
Capital grants from DfE Group	24,944	24,834
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities	22,461	611

21. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2025	2024
	£	£
Cash in hand and at bank	358,223	905,504
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	-	-
Total cash and cash equivalents	358,223	905,504

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

22. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2024	Cash flows	At 31 August 2025
	£	£	£
Cash	905,504	(547,281)	358,223
Cash equivalents	-	-	-
	905,504	(547,281)	358,223
Loans falling due within one year	-	-	-
Loans falling due after more than one year	-	-	-
Total	905,504	(547,281)	358,223

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

24. Pension and similar obligations

The Academy 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 the Greater Manchester Pension Fund. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

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

Contributions amounting to £Nil were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2025 (2024: £Nil) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. Membership is automatic for full-time teachers in academies. All teachers have the option to opt-out of the TPS following enrolment.

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

24. Pension and similar obligations (continued)

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.

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 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 2027.

The total employer pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £746,571 (2024: £617,132).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website. (<https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2023/10/valuation-result.aspx>)

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

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

24. Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2025 was £548,000 (2024 £508,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £413,000 (2024 £383,000) and employees' contributions totalled £135,000 (2024 £125,000). The agreed employer contribution rates for future years are between 18.65% and 24.95% for employers and for employees range from 5.5% to 6.8% depending on salary.

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

Principal Actuarial Assumptions

	At 31 August 2025 %	At 31 August 2024 %
Rate of increase in salaries	3.50	3.45
Future pensions increases	2.70	2.65
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	6.08	5.00

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

	At 31 August 2025 Years	At 31 August 2024 Years
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	20.3	20.0
Females	22.9	23.1
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	19.8	20.8
Females	23.9	24.0

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

24. Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Sensitivity Analysis

	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
Discount rate: + 0.1%	(40)	(71)
Discount rate: - 0.1%	40	71
Mortality assumption: 1 year increase	73	132
Mortality assumption: 1 year decrease	(73)	(132)
CPI rate: + 0.1%	40	70
CPI rate: - 0.1%	(40)	(70)

The Academy Trust's share of the assets in the scheme were:

	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
Equities	5,473	5,105
Bonds	1,431	1,110
Property	758	592
Cash and other liquid assets	<u>758</u>	<u>592</u>
Total fair value of assets	<u>8,420</u>	<u>7,399</u>

The actual return on the scheme assets was £573k (2024 £616k).

Amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities

	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
Current service cost	(366)	(357)
Past service cost	-	-
Interest income	381	341
Interest cost	(318)	(295)
Admin expenses	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total amount recognised in the SOFA	<u>(303)</u>	<u>(311)</u>

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

24. Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations were as follows:

	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
At 1 September 2024	6,164	5,486
Current service cost	366	357
Interest cost	318	295
Employee contributions	135	125
Actuarial (gain) / loss	(1,398)	1
Benefits paid	(100)	(100)
Past service cost	-	-
At 31 August 2025	<u>5,485</u>	<u>6,164</u>

Changes in the fair value of the Academy Trust's share of scheme assets were as follows:

	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
At 1 September 2024	7,399	6,375
Interest income	381	341
Actuarial gain / (loss)	192	275
Employer contributions	413	383
Employee contributions	135	125
Benefits paid	(100)	(100)
At 31 August 2025	<u>8,420</u>	<u>7,399</u>
Notional asset not being recognised	(2,935)	(1,235)
At 31 August 2025 (after asset restriction)	<u>5,485</u>	<u>6,164</u>

25. Related Party Transactions

Due 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) it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a member of the Board of Trustees may have an interest. All transactions involving organisations in which a member of the Board of Trustees may have an interest are conducted at arm's length in accordance with the Trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

Notes to the accounts**For the Year Ended 31 August 2025****26. Going concern**

The Trustees have adopted the going concern basis of accounting in respect of these financial statements. This assumes that the academy will continue to operate for a period of at least one year from the date of approval of the financial statements. The Trustees are confident that a programme of cost cutting measures can be implemented over the coming 12 months to ensure that the academy trust can continue to operate. Trustees are also confident that cash flow can be managed in the short term while the programme of cost cutting takes effect, so that the balance at the bank remains in credit.

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

27. Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted General Funds	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds	Total 2024
		£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	2	7,027	25,306	24,834	57,167
Charitable activities:					
Funding for the Academy	3	-	7,655,467	-	7,655,467
Trust's educational activities					
Other trading activities	4	145,868	-	-	145,868
Investments	5	14,618	-	-	14,618
Total income		167,513	7,680,773	24,834	7,873,120
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities:					
Academy Trust's educational operations	7	-	8,214,856	303,746	8,518,602
Other		-	-	-	-
Total expenditure		-	8,214,856	303,746	8,518,602
Net income / (expenditure)		167,513	(534,083)	(278,912)	(645,482)
Transfers between funds		(475,165)	482,377	(7,212)	-
Other recognised gains / (losses):					
Actuarial gains / (losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	24	-	(72,000)	-	(72,000)
Net movement in funds		(307,652)	(123,706)	(286,124)	(717,482)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		749,186	438,427	14,164,243	15,351,856
Total funds carried forward		441,534	314,721	13,878,119	14,634,374