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Company registration number 07645519 (England and Wales)

ROOKS NEST ACADEMY

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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ROOKS NEST ACADEMY

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ROOKS NEST ACADEMY

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members	
	Father J W Butterworth Father J Bish C Rowell J Yates
Trustees	Mr M Claypole (Appointed 3 February 2025) Miss K Dawson (Accounting officer) Ms J James Ms N Lomas (Trustee) Mrs L E McGregor (Appointed 23 September 2025) Mr G M Nicholls (Appointed 24 September 2024) Mr R Overton Mrs S Parfitt Mr R Rishikant (Appointed 24 September 2024) Ms R Steel (Resigned 31 December 2024, reappointed 21 January 2025) Mr B Crossley (Resigned 3 June 2025) Miss K J Firth (Resigned 24 September 2024) Miss L E Harper (Resigned 23 September 2025) Miss J L Longfellow (Resigned 24 September 2024) Ms S J Shaw (Resigned 23 September 2025) Miss J L Smith (Resigned 23 September 2025)
Senior management team	
- Headteacher	K J Dawson
- Deputy Headteacher (to September 2024)	C Milful
- Assistant Head (Attainment and Inclusion)	S Brooks
- Assistant Head (Curriculum and Early Years)	L McGregor
- KS1 Lead (Behaviour and Attitudes)	J Smith
- KS2 Lead (Personal Development and Wellbeing)	S Morrell
Company secretary	Ms J F Hartley
Company registration number	07645519 (England and Wales)
Registered office	Rooks Nest Academy Rooks Nest Road Wakefield West Yorkshire WF1 3DX
Independent auditor	Parsons Accountants Ltd Unit 2 Silkwood Park Fryers Way Ossett WF5 9TJ

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ROOKS NEST ACADEMY

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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

In September 2022 the Academy began educating 2 year olds after re registering and the TUPE of pre-school staff. This meant that the trust operated as an academy for 2s and Rising 3s, Foundation Stage, Key Stage One and Key Stage Two pupils aged 2 to 11, with the addition of wrap around provision (before and after school) serving a catchment area in eastern Outwood, north of Wakefield, West Yorkshire. It had a roll of 350 in the school census October 2024.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The academy trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy trust.

The trustees of Rooks Nest Academy are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. Details of the trustees who served during the year, and to the date these financial statements are approved, are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

Members' liability

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

Trustees' indemnities

Trustees benefit from indemnity insurance purchased at the Academy expense to cover the liability of the Trustees which by virtue of any rule of law would otherwise attach to them in respect of negligence, default or breach of trust or breach of duty of which they may be guilty in relation to the Academy:
Provided that:
a) any such insurance shall not extend to any claim arising from any act or omission which the Trustees knew to be a breach of trust or a breach of duty or which was committed by the Trustees in reckless disregard to whether it was a breach of trust or breach of duty or not
b) such insurance shall not extend to the costs of any unsuccessful defence to a criminal prosecution brought against the Trustees in their capacity as directors of the Academy. The limit of this indemnity is £10,000,000.

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Method of recruitment and appointment or election of trustees

As laid down in the Articles of Association, the Academy shall have the following Trustees:

- 1 Trustee, appointed by the Members under Article 50:
- 4 Parent Trustees appointed under Articles 53-58;
- 3 Staff Trustees appointed under Article 58A (including the Headteacher who under Article 52 shall be treated for all purposes as ex-officio);
- 4 Community Trustees under Article 58B.
- any additional Trustees, if appointed under Article 62, 62A or 68A:
- and any further Trustees, if appointed under Article 63 or Article 68A

Subject to Articles 57 & 58, the Parent Trustee(s) shall be elected by parents of registered pupils at the Academy. A Parent Trustee must be a parent of a pupil at the Academy at the time when he is elected. The Board of Trustees shall make all necessary arrangements for, and determine all other matters relating to, an election of Parent Trustees, including any question of whether a person is a parent of a registered pupil at the Academy. Any election of Parent Trustees which is contested shall be held by secret ballot. The arrangements made for the election of a Parent Trustee shall provide for every person who is entitled to vote in the election to have an opportunity to do so by post or, if they prefer, by having his ballot paper returned to the Academy by a registered pupil at the Academy.

The Board of Trustees shall make all necessary arrangements for, and determine matters relating to, the election and removal of Staff Trustees. No more than one third of the total number of individuals appointed as Trustees shall be employees of the Academy (including the Headteacher). The Headteacher shall be treated for all purposes as being an ex officio Trustee.

The Community Trustees may be appointed by the Board of Trustees provided that the person who appointed as a Community Trustee is:
a) a person who lives or works in the community served by the Academy; or
b) a person who in the opinion of the Board of Trustees, is committed to the government and success of the Academy.

The Board of Trustees may not appoint an employee of the Academy Trust as a Community Trustee if the number of Trustees who are employed by the Academy Trust (including the Headteacher) would thereby exceed one third of the total number of Governors.

The Secretary of State may appoint additional Trustees.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

The training and induction provided for new Trustees will depend on their existing experience. Where necessary, induction will provide training on charity and educational, legal and finance matters. All new Trustees will be given a tour of the Academy and the chance to meet with the staff and pupils. All Trustees are provided with an induction pack which includes copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budget plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as Trustees.

The term of office for any Trustee shall be 4 years, save that this time limit shall not apply to the Headteacher. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Trustee, any Trustee may be re-appointed or re-elected.

Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Trustees

The Trustees shall each school year, at their first meeting in that year, elect a chairman and a vice-chairman from among their number. A Trustee who is employed by the Academy shall not be eligible for election as chairman or vice-chairman.

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Organisational structure

The Members of the Academy Trust have a different status from the Trustees. The Members are the subscribers to the Trust's memorandum of association, and any other individuals permitted to become Members under its articles of association. Members have an overview of the governance arrangements of the trust and have the power to appoint trustees and remove these trustees. Members can amend the articles and may do so to support stronger governance arrangements.

The Trustees are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual plan and budget, monitoring the academy by the use of results and budgets and making major decisions about the direction of the Academy, capital expenditure and staff appointments. They are the people responsible under the Academy Trust's Articles of Association for controlling its management and administration. They have responsibility for directing its affairs, and for ensuring that it is solvent, well-run, and delivering the trust's charitable outcomes for the benefit of the public. The Board of Trustees meets every two months and its committees and working parties meet as necessary. This is the same body of people as both the directors of the company and the governors of the Academy; these words are used interchangeably.

The Trustees have recruited and appointed a Headteacher to be responsible for all aspects of the day to day running of the Academy, implementing the policies laid down by the Trustees and reporting back to them, including making recommendations about the development of particular policies and the general improvement of the Academy. There is an interim Deputy Headteacher (due to the death in service of the Deputy Headteacher in September 2024) to assist the Headteacher. Other managers are appointed to areas of particular responsibility under the direction of the Headteacher. The Headteacher is the accounting officer and is responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets (with the assistance of the Business Manager) and for the appointment of staff.

Trade union facility time

Under the provisions of the Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2017, where an academy trust has more than 49 full time equivalent employees throughout any 7 months within the reporting period, it must include information in Schedule 2 of the Regulations. There were no relevant union officials at the Academy Trust during 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The academy reviews its Teacher Appraisal and Pay Policy on an annual basis, which is in line with Local Authority and Trade Union recommendations. It follows an appraisal cycle which is monitored and approved by the Personnel and Resources Committee. The Headteacher is responsible for all aspects of the day to day running of the Academy, implementing the policies laid down by the Trustees and reporting back to them, including making recommendations about staffing pay increments.

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

Owing to the nature of the Academy's operations and the composition of the board of trustees being drawn from local, public and private organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which a trustee has an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the academy trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures. As Governing Body we are keen to ensure that there are no conflicts of interest and this is included in the Governor Code of Conduct that all Governors sign and agree each year.

Details of transactions with related parties are included in the notes of the accounts.

The Academy participates in local networks operating within the pyramid under their Memorandum Understanding with schools in the Outwood Together Association and others through the Local Education Authority.

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Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The principal object and activity of the charitable company is to advance education in the UK for the public benefit, in particular by maintaining and carrying on the academy, offering a broad and creative curriculum. The Academy provides excellent education, constantly striving to meet the needs of all students regardless of socio-economic background or ability.

The Academy has adopted the motto: 'Respect, Believe, Achieve'. At Rook's Nest Academy we believe that our pupils deserve to learn within a rich, inclusive and stimulating environment which has high expectations for all. We work together to challenge, motivate and inspire our scholars to become independent, enthusiastic and resilient.

The community of Rook's Nest Academy endeavours to foster respect, belief and achievement, where children will ultimately leave our care with a genuine love of learning.

Objectives, strategies and activities

The main objectives of the academy during the year ended 31 August 2025 are summarised below:

- Key Development priority 1: Behaviour and Attitudes/Personal Development. Embedding relational approaches in school through Relate to Educate.
- Key Development priority 2: Quality of Education. Continue to develop a deeper understanding of teaching for maths mastery with particular focus on improving the fluency and recall of times tables knowledge.
- Key Development priority 3: Leadership and Management. Ensure the progress pupils make in R, W and M across school (but particularly in Y2, Y3 and Y4) is in line with curriculum expectations with support identified swiftly to close any emerging gaps for individual pupils.

Public benefit

The trustees have had due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission on Public Benefit. The main public benefit delivered by the Trust is the provision of a high quality of education to its pupils. This has been evidenced through the results achieved and feedback from external assessments including the Ofsted Inspection carried out in March 2023.

In the Inspection the academy received Good in all areas: "Pupils enjoy coming to this inclusive and welcoming school. Leaders have high expectations for pupils, both academically and personally. Pupils are polite and respectful. Positive relationships are enjoyed throughout school. Older pupils provide positive role models for younger pupils. Staff are committed to fostering a love of learning that will last the pupils a lifetime.".

The Trustees keep the school's ongoing achievement and performance under scrutiny to ensure aims and objectives are being met for the Public Benefit. The Strategic Report below indicates that the school continues to attain high standards. Osted reported: "The governors understand their roles and responsibilities. They have a range of backgrounds and skills and ensure that they provide an appropriate balance of support and challenge to school leaders.".

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

In the Inspection the academy received Good in all areas: "Pupils enjoy coming to this inclusive and welcoming school. Leaders have high expectations for pupils, both academically and personally. Pupils are polite and respectful. Positive relationships are enjoyed throughout school. Older pupils provide positive role models for younger pupils. Staff are committed to fostering a love of learning that will last the pupils a lifetime.".

The Trustees keep the school's ongoing achievement and performance under scrutiny to ensure aims and objectives are being met for the Public Benefit. The Strategic Report below indicates that the school continues to attain high standards. Osted reported: "The governors understand their roles and responsibilities. They have a range of backgrounds and skills and ensure that they provide an appropriate balance of support and challenge to school leaders.".

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Key performance indicators

2024	School data	National data
EYFS	75%	68%
Phonics	77%	80%
KS2 Reading	85%	75%
KS2 Writing	93%	72%
KS2 Maths	91%	74%
KS2 RWM (Expected and above)	85%	62%
KS2 RWM (Higher standard)	15%	8%

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the board of trustees has a reasonable expectation that the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, the board of trustees continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the statement of accounting policies.

Financial review

The majority of the Academy Trust's income is obtained from the Education and Skills Funding Agency in the form of the General Annual Grant (GAG). The Academy Trust also received other central government grants such as the Pupil Premium, Sports Premium and Universal Infant Free School Meals. In accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, this income is disclosed as restricted funding.

During the year ended 31st August 2025, total incoming resources (including capital grants) exceeded total expenditure (including depreciation) by £127k. After excluding the LGPS actuarial pension adjustments and fixed asset fund movements, the Academy made an in year deficit of £29k on restricted general funds and a surplus of £216k on unrestricted general funds. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the Academy.

Total fund balances at 31 August 2025 was £2,561k, including £893k of unrestricted general funds. The fixed asset fund balance was £1,668k and the pension asset reserve was zero as this has been restricted by the actuary.

Reserves policy

The Trustees will review the reserve levels of the Academy annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. Reserves are held to ensure that the Academy has sufficient resources to continue to advance the education of pupils.

In the opinion of the trustees the Academy is in a sound financial position, however this will need to be carefully monitored and managed.

Investment policy

As specified in Articles of Association 5 (m) to 5 (o) the Academy may deposit or invest funds not immediately required. The Academy does not have an investment policy as currently it has no investments and immediate reserves are committed to support the needs of pupils at the Academy.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The Trustees have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the academy faces, especially in operational areas (e.g. in relation to teaching, health, bullying and school trips) and in relation to the control of finance. There are systems in place to minimise risks, including operational procedures (e.g. vetting of new staff and visitors, supervision of school grounds) and internal financial controls.

Fundraising

The Academy runs fundraising activities throughout the year to provide funds for specific areas of purchase. Over the period, funds were used to purchase extra reading materials, Early Years resources and furniture, Special Educational Needs resources and items to furnish the newly established Magic room.

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Plans for future periods

We will provide the highest educational opportunities for all children as well as providing professional development for all teaching and support staff so that our Academy continues to be self-developing and self supporting in the future.

The Headteacher will continue to monitor the overall situation, develop the management team and make recommendations to the Trustees about various aspects of the future development of the Academy. We shall keep our arrangements for Governor Training under review and seek to ensure that Trustees are kept fully up to date with statutory requirements, guidance and general information from the Department for Education, Education & Skills Funding Agency etc.

We shall continue to improve and maintain the buildings to provide the best possible facilities for our pupils and staff. We shall seek to co-operate as fully as possible with other schools and academies within the Outwood Together Partnership.

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

The academy and its Trustees do not act as the Custodian Trustees of another Charity.

Auditor

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 09 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Ms N Lomas
Trustee

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ROOKS NEST ACADEMY

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Scope of responsibility

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

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

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The board of trustees has formally met 6 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of trustees was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Mr M Claypole (Appointed 3 February 2025)	3	3
Miss K Dawson (Accounting officer)	6	6
Ms J James	4	6
Ms N Lomas (Trustee)	5	6
Mrs L E McGregor (Appointed 23 September 2025)	0	0
Mr G M Nicholls (Appointed 24 September 2024)	6	6
Mr R Overton	4	6
Mrs S Parfitt	4	6
Mr R Rishikant (Appointed 24 September 2024)	3	6
Ms R Steel (Resigned 31 December 2024, reappointed 21 January 2025)	4	6
Mr B Crossley (Resigned 3 June 2025)	1	5
Miss K J Firth (Resigned 24 September 2024)	0	0
Miss L E Harper (Resigned 23 September 2025)	5	6
Miss J L Longfellow (Resigned 24 September 2024)	0	0
Ms S J Shaw (Resigned 23 September 2025)	4	6
Miss J L Smith (Resigned 23 September 2025)	2	6

Conflicts of interest

To manage conflicts of interest, the Academy maintains an up-to-date and complete register of interests. Any transactions involving related parties will be conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the Academy Trust Handbook.

Governance reviews

In 2017 the Academy undertook an external review of Governance carried out by the Local Authority. No areas were identified for improvement. In the Ofsted Inspection 2023 governors were met with and rated positively under the judgement around Leadership and management.

Personnel and Resource Committee

The Personnel and Resources Committee is a sub-committee of the main board of trustees. Its purpose is to manage the Academy's resources and finances efficiently and effectively.

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Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Mr M Claypole (Appointed 3 February 2025)	2	2
Miss K Dawson (Accounting officer)	4	4
Mr G M Nicholls (Appointed 24 September 2024)	3	4
Mr R Overton	2	4
Mrs S Parfitt	4	4
Mr R Rishikant (Appointed 24 September 2024)	4	4
Ms S J Shaw (Resigned 23 September 2025)	2	4

Review of value for money

As accounting officer, the 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, as well as estates safety and management, 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 board of trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data or by using a framework where appropriate. The accounting officer for the academy trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- Ensuring 3 comparable quotes are obtained for items over a set value
- Giving careful consideration to spending to ensure it is used to facilitate the best outcomes for children's learning
- Reconciling the budget in line with the Academy Improvement Plan

Specific examples where value for money has been considered and the above practices implemented include:

- Increasing the opportunities to hire out the preschool building to external agencies.
- Careful consideration was given during staffing appointments to reduce overall staffing costs.
- Fundraising to purchase large items for EYFS and SEN provision area.

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of 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 Rook's Nest Academy for the period 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 board of trustees 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 board of trustees is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 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 board of trustees.

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ROOKS NEST ACADEMY

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

The risk and control framework

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the board of trustees;
- regular reviews by the Personnel and Resources 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;
- identification and management of risks.

Internal Scrutiny is being undertaken by School Business Services (SBS) who hold 3 reviews annually.

The internal scrutiny role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the academy trust's financial systems. During the year, the SBS reported to the board of trustees on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities. In particular, checks carried out in the current period included;

- Review 1: Governance, risk management.
- Review 2: Procurement management, procurement cards and staff reimbursement.
- Review 3: GAG Income, non-GAG DfE income, other grant income, other income and payroll management.

A report was produced after each review and these have been shared with P&R, FGB and the Auditors.

The SBS delivered the schedule of work as planned and has not identified any material control issues.

Review of effectiveness

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

- the work of the internal auditor:
- the work of the external auditor;
- the school resource management self-assessment tool;
- the work of the SLT within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the audit and risk committee and a plan to address weaknesses [if relevant] and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Conclusion

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

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 09 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Kimberley Dawson

Miss K Dawson
Accounting officer

Ms N Lomas
Trustee

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ROOKS NEST ACADEMY

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

As accounting officer of Rooks Nest Academy, 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 the Department for Education (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.

Kimberley Dawson

Miss K Dawson
Accounting Officer

09 December 2025

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ROOKS NEST ACADEMY

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

The trustees (who are also the directors of Rooks Nest Academy for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 published by the Department for Education, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare 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 judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- 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 that grants received from 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 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 09 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Ms N Lomas
Trustee

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ROOKS NEST ACADEMY

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF ROOKS NEST ACADEMY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Rooks Nest Academy 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, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by the Department for Education.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. 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 course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

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Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the trustees' report including the incorporated strategic report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report including the incorporated strategic report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the academy trust’s ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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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:

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the academy trust through discussions with the Trustees and other management, and from our knowledge and experience;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the academy trust, including the Companies Act 2006, Charities SORP, the Academies Accounts Direction, Ofsted regulations, data protection, anti-bribery, employment and health and safety legislation;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the academy trust's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- reviewing correspondence with HMRC, relevant regulators and the academy trust's legal advisors.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

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

Use of our report

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

Ian Parsons

Ian Parsons (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Parsons Accountants Ltd, Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants
Unit 2 Silkwood Park
Fryers Way
Ossett
WF5 9TJ

Date: 11/12/2025

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ROOKS NEST ACADEMY

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON REGULARITY TO ROOKS NEST ACADEMY AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 18 July 2025 and further to the requirements of the Department for Education (DfE) as included in the extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether anything has come to our attention that would suggest, in all material respects, the expenditure disbursed and income received by Rooks Nest Academy 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 Rooks Nest Academy 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 Rooks Nest Academy 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 Rooks Nest Academy 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 Rooks Nest Academy and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Rooks Nest Academy'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 Accountant of Academy Trusts issued by the DfE, which requires a limited assurance engagement as set out in our engagement letter.

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

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

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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.

Ian Parsons

Reporting Accountant

Parsons Accountants Ltd
Unit 2 Silkwood Park
Fryers Way
Ossett
WF5 9TJ

Date: 11/12/2025

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ROOKS NEST ACADEMY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds: General £'000	Restricted funds: Fixed asset £'000	Total 2025 £'000	Total 2024 £'000
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	**3**	1	-	8	9	15
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	**4**	28	2,010	-	2,038	1,881
Other trading activities	**5**	245	-	-	245	204
Investments	**6**	22	-	-	22	40
Total		296	2,010	8	2,314	2,140
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	**8**	80	2,033	74	2,187	2,184
Total	**7**	80	2,033	74	2,187	2,184
Net income/(expenditure)		216	(23)	(66)	127	(44)
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial (losses)/gains on defined benefit pension schemes	**19**	-	(250)	-	(250)	157
Net movement in funds		216	(273)	(66)	(123)	113
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		677	273	1,734	2,684	2,571
Total funds carried forward		893	-	1,668	2,561	2,684

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ROOKS NEST ACADEMY

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Comparative year information Year ended 31 August 2024	**Notes**	**Unrestricted funds £'000**	**Restricted funds: General £'000**	**Restricted funds: Fixed asset £'000**	**Total 2024 £'000**
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	**3**	7	-	8	15
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	**4**	59	1,822	-	1,881
Other trading activities	**5**	204	-	-	204
Investments	**6**	40	-	-	40
Total		310	1,822	8	2,140
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	**8**	290	1,820	74	2,184
Total	**7**	290	1,820	74	2,184
Net income/(expenditure)		20	2	(66)	(44)
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	**19**	-	157	-	157
Net movement in funds		20	159	(66)	113
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		657	114	1,800	2,571
Total funds carried forward		677	273	1,734	2,684

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ROOKS NEST ACADEMY

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025

	Notes	2025 £'000	2025 £'000	2024 £'000	2024 £'000
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**12**		1,639		1,709
Current assets					
Stock	**13**	2		2	
Debtors	**14**	46		43	
Cash at bank and in hand		986		785	
		1,034		830	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**15**	(112)		(99)	
Net current assets			922		731
Net assets excluding pension asset			2,561		2,440
Defined benefit pension scheme asset	**19**		-		244
Total net assets			2,561		2,684
Funds of the academy trust:					
Restricted funds	**17**				
- Fixed asset funds			1,668		1,734
- Restricted income funds			-		29
- Pension reserve			-		244
Total restricted funds			1,668		2,007
Unrestricted income funds	**17**		893		677
Total funds			2,561		2,684

The financial statements on pages 19 to 40 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 09 December 2025 and are signed on their behalf by:

Ms N Lomas
Trustee

Company registration number 07645519 (England and Wales)

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ROOKS NEST ACADEMY

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

	Notes	2025 £'000	2025 £'000	2024 £'000	2024 £'000
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	**20**		175		(37)
Cash flows from investing activities					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		22		40	
Capital grants from DfE Group		8		8	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(4)		-	
Net cash provided by investing activities			26		48
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			201		11
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			785		774
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year			986		785

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1 Accounting policies

Rooks Nest Academy is a charitable company. The address of its 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.

1.1 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 financial statements 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 the Department for Education, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

1.2 Going concern

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

1.3 Income

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

Grants

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

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the statement of financial activities in the period for which it is receivable, and any abatement in respect of the period is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

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

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.

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1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Other income

Other income, including the hire of facilities, is recognised in the period it is receivable and to the extent the 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'.

Donated fixed assets

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

1.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Expenditure on raising funds

This includes all expenditure incurred by the 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.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Assets costing £500 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 that require 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 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.

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1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its estimated useful life.

Long leasehold	Over the life of the lease straight line
Leasehold improvements	2% on cost straight line
Computer equipment	straight line over 3 years
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	20% on cost straight line

The buildings within leasehold land and buildings are being depreciated over 18 years, being the remainder on the life of the buildings at the point of conversion to an Academy Trust. The land is being depreciated over 125 years.

Depreciation on the relevant assets is charged directly to the restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

Tangible fixed assets are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment. Depreciation is not charged on freehold land. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives.

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

1.6 Liabilities

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

1.7 Leased assets

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

1.8 Financial instruments

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

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1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.9 Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Net realisable value is based on estimated selling price less further costs to completion and disposal. Provision is made for obsolete and slow moving stock.

1.10 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 chapter 3 part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

1.11 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 and the assets are held separately from those of the academy trust.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated 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 based on quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. The TPS is an unfunded multi-employer scheme with no underlying assets to assign between employers. Consequently, the TPS is treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions are recognised in the period to which they relate.

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

1.12 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 ESFA/DfE.

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

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2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement (Continued)

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.

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 19, will impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2025. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Critical areas of judgement

The Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit recognition policy is also a critical judgement because at 31 August 2025 the actuarial valuation is an asset rather than a liability. Paragraph 28.22 of FRS 102 states "If the present value of the defined benefit obligation at the reporting date is less than the fair value of plan assets at that date, the plan has a surplus. An entity shall recognise a plan surplus as a defined benefit plan asset only to the extent that it is able to recover the surplus either through reduced contributions in the future or through refunds from the plan."

As part of performing the year end valuation, the actuary has calculated the maximum economic benefit the Academy could recognise in the accounts (referred to as the asset ceiling) and has calculated the asset ceiling to be £nil. On that basis, the net pension asset of £758,000 calculated by the actuarial valuation has been restricted to £nil.

Capital grants, including those from the Condition Improvement Fund, are recognised in full when there is an unconditional entitlement to the grant. Unspent amounts of capital grants are reflected in the balance sheet in the restricted fixed asset fund. Capital grants are recognised on a receivable basis and upon entitlement, and not deferred over the life of the asset on which they are expended. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2025 £'000	Total 2024 £'000
Capital grants	-	8	8	8
Other donations	1	-	1	7
	1	8	9	15

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4 Funding for the academy trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2025 £'000	Total 2024 £'000
DfE/ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	1,460	1,460	1,352
Other DfE/ESFA grants:				
- UIFSM	-	58	58	50
- Pupil premium	-	76	76	58
- Mainstream school additional grant	-	55	55	44
- TPAG/TPECG	-	53	53	36
- Others	-	19	19	21
	-	1,721	1,721	1,561
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	242	242	199
Special educational needs	-	47	47	62
	-	289	289	261
Other incoming resources	28	-	28	59
Total funding	28	2,010	2,038	1,881

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2025 £'000	Total 2024 £'000
Other events and activities	232	-	232	184
Consultancy	-	-	-	1
Other income	13	-	13	19
	245	-	245	204

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2025 £'000	Total 2024 £'000
Short term deposits	22	-	22	40

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7 Expenditure

	Staff costs	Non-pay expenditure		Total 2025	Total 2024
		Premises	Other		
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	968	74	101	1,143	1,173
- Allocated support costs	853	118	73	1,044	1,011
	1,821	192	174	2,187	2,184

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Operating lease rentals	8	7
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	74	74
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	7	8
- Other services	5	2
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	(15)	(2)

8 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Direct costs				
Educational operations	72	1,071	1,143	1,173
Support costs				
Educational operations	8	1,036	1,044	1,011
	80	2,107	2,187	2,184

Analysis of support costs

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Support staff costs	853	783
Technology costs	17	13
Premises costs	118	94
Other support costs	44	103
Governance costs	12	18
	1,044	1,011

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9 Staff

Staff costs and employee benefits

Staff costs during the year were:

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Wages and salaries	1,344	1,346
Social security costs	130	125
Pension costs	320	306
Staff costs - employees	1,794	1,777
Agency staff costs	27	-
Total staff expenditure	1,821	1,777

Staff numbers

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

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Teachers	15	15
Administration and support	37	34
Management	2	2
	54	51

Higher paid staff

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

	2025 Number	2024 Number
£60,001 - £70,000	-	1
£80,001 - £90,000	-	1
£90,001 - £100,000	1	-

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £448,128 (2024: £393,891).

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10 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

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

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

K Dawson (Headteacher and trustee):
- Remuneration £90,000 - £100,000 (2024: £85,000-£90,000)
- Employer's pension contributions £25,000 - £30,000 (2024: £20,000-£25,000)

M Claypole (staff trustee):
- Remuneration £25,000 - £30,000 (2024: £25,000-£30,000)
- Employer's pension contributions £5,000 - £10,000 (2024: £5,000-£10,000)

J Smith (staff trustee):
- Remuneration £45,000 - £50,000 (2024: £45,000-£50,000)
- Employer's pension contributions £10,000 - £15,000 (2024: £10,000-£15,000)

R Steel (staff trustee):
- Remuneration £5,000 - £10,000 (2024: £15,000-£20,000)
- Employer's pension contributions £0,000 - £5,000 (2024: £0,000-£5,000)

During the year, travel and subsistence payments totalling £nil (2024: £322) were reimbursed or paid directly to 0 trustees (2024: 1 trustees).

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out within the related parties note.

11 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 £8,213 (2024: £7,360). The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

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12 Tangible fixed assets

	Long leasehold	Leasehold improvements	Computer equipment	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost					
At 1 September 2024	1,704	826	84	142	2,756
Additions	-	-	4	-	4
At 31 August 2025	1,704	826	88	142	2,760
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2024	690	136	81	140	1,047
Charge for the year	53	17	3	1	74
At 31 August 2025	743	153	84	141	1,121
Net book value					
At 31 August 2025	961	673	4	1	1,639
At 31 August 2024	1,014	690	3	2	1,709

13 Stock

	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
Catering stock	2	2

14 Debtors

	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
VAT recoverable	8	8
Prepayments and accrued income	38	35
	46	43

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
Trade creditors	12	18
Other taxation and social security	32	28
Other creditors	35	14
Accruals and deferred income	33	39
	112	99

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16 Deferred income

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	17	16
Deferred income at 1 September 2024	16	15
Released from previous years	(11)	(10)
Resources deferred in the year	12	11
Deferred income at 31 August 2025	17	16

Deferred income at 31 August 2025 relates to income for trips £12k (2024: £11k) received for the 2025/26 year and grants repayable of £5k (2024: £5k).

17 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2024 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2025 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	1,460	(1,460)	-	-
UIFSM	-	58	(58)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	76	(76)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	29	127	(156)	-	-
Other government grants	-	289	(289)	-	-
Pension reserve	244	-	6	(250)	-
	273	2,010	(2,033)	(250)	-
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	1,013	-	(53)	-	960
DfE group capital grants	721	8	(21)	-	708
	1,734	8	(74)	-	1,668
Total restricted funds	2,007	2,018	(2,107)	(250)	1,668
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	677	296	(80)	-	893
Total funds	2,684	2,314	(2,187)	(250)	2,561

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17 Funds **(Continued)**

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

1) Restricted general funds must be used for the normal running costs of the Academy in line with the Master Funding Agreement and restrictions from other sources of funding. Any transfers between restricted funds and fixed assets funds relate to fixed assets purchased from GAG.

2) Restricted fixed asset funds are used solely for capital purposes in line with the strategic objectives of the academy.

At 31 August 2025, the restricted pension fund is in surplus to the value of £758k. This has been restricted to £nil because the full pension surplus is not expected to be recovered through refunds or reduced contributions in the future. Previously, this had been in deficit which had been inherited upon conversion to Academy status. When the fund had been in deficit in the past, the Trustees continued to monitor the situation closely so that the academy could continue to meet the cash funding requirement of the pension deficit and they will continue to do so even when the fund is in surplus.

The academy trust is not subject to GAG carried forward limits.

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

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2024 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	1,352	(1,352)	-	-
UIFSM	-	50	(50)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	58	(58)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	29	101	(101)	-	29
Other government grants	-	261	(261)	-	-
Pension reserve	85	-	2	157	244
	114	1,822	(1,820)	157	273
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	1,066	-	(53)	-	1,013
DfE group capital grants	734	8	(21)	-	721
	1,800	8	(74)	-	1,734
Total restricted funds	1,914	1,830	(1,894)	157	2,007
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	657	310	(290)	-	677
Total funds	2,571	2,140	(2,184)	157	2,684

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18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted funds: General	Restricted funds: Fixed asset	Total Funds
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2025 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	1,639	1,639
Current assets	1,005	-	29	1,034
Current liabilities	(112)	-	-	(112)
Total net assets	893	-	1,668	2,561

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted funds: General	Restricted funds: Fixed asset	Total Funds
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	1,709	1,709
Current assets	689	110	31	830
Current liabilities	(12)	(81)	(6)	(99)
Pension scheme asset	-	244	-	244
Total net assets	677	273	1,734	2,684

19 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 West Yorkshire 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 that of the LGPS related to the period ended 31 March 2022.

Contributions amounting to £35k were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2025 (2024: £14k) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme to which both the member and employer makes contributions, as a percentage of salary. These contributions are credited to the Exchequer. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament.

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

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 the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, applying a notional investment return based on 1.7% above the rate of CPI. The key elements of the valuation outcome are:

- Employer contribution rates set at 28.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy). This is an increase of 5% in employer contributions and the cost control result is such that no change in member benefits is needed.
- Total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £262,000 million and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222,200 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £39,800 million.

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

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £191k (2024: £187k).

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

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102, the TPS is an unfunded multi-employer pension scheme. The academy trust is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the plan. Accordingly, the academy trust has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 and has 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.

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 17.5% for employers and 5.5 to 12.5% for employees.

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

Total contributions made	**2025**	**2024**
	£'000	**£'000**
Employer's contributions	119	115
Employees' contributions	38	36
Total contributions	157	151

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

Principal actuarial assumptions	**2025**	**2024**
	%	**%**
Rate of increase in salaries	3.75	3.75
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.50	2.50
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	6.00	4.90
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.50	2.50
Pension accounts revaluation rate	2.50	2.50

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

	2025	**2024**
	Years	**Years**
Retiring today		
- Males	21.2	20.8
- Females	24.2	24
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	22.1	21.7
- Females	24.9	24.7

Sensitivity analysis

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

	2025	**2024**
	£'000	**£'000**
Discount rate + 0.1%	(38)	(44)
Discount rate - 0.1%	38	47
Mortality assumption + 1 year	44	58
Mortality assumption - 1 year	(46)	(58)
CPI rate + 0.1%	33	42
CPI rate - 0.1%	(33)	(40)

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

The academy trust's share of the assets in the scheme	**2025 Fair value £'000**	**2024 Fair value £'000**
Equities	2,251	2,040
Bonds	288	226
Corporate bonds	111	103
Cash	51	69
Property	77	69
Other assets	71	64
Total market value of assets	2,849	2,571
Restriction on scheme assets	(758)	-
Net assets recognised	2,091	2,571

The actual return on scheme assets was £218,000 (2024: £194,000).

Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities	**2025 £'000**	**2024 £'000**
Current service cost	128	120
Interest income	(128)	(120)
Interest cost	113	113
Total amount recognised	113	113

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations	**2025 £'000**
At 1 September 2024	2,327
Current service cost	128
Interest cost	113
Employee contributions	38
Actuarial gain	(418)
Benefits paid	(97)
At 31 August 2025	2,091

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

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

	2025 £'000
At 1 September 2024	2,571
Interest income	128
Actuarial gain	90
Employer contributions	119
Employee contributions	38
Benefits paid	(97)
At 31 August 2025	2,849
Restriction on scheme assets	(758)
Net assets recognised	2,091

Restriction of pension scheme assets
The net gain recognised on scheme assets has been restricted because the full pension surplus is not expected to be recovered through refunds or reduced contributions in the future.

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

	Notes	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		127	(44)
Adjusted for:			
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income		(8)	(8)
Investment income receivable	**6**	(22)	(40)
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	**19**	9	-
Defined benefit pension scheme finance income	**19**	(15)	(2)
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		74	74
(Increase) in stocks		-	(1)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors		(3)	4
Increase/(decrease) in creditors		13	(20)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		175	(37)

21 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2024 £'000	Cash flows £'000	31 August 2025 £'000
Cash	785	201	986

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22 Long-term commitments

Operating leases

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

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Amounts due within one year	6	9
Amounts due in two and five years	3	9
	9	18

23 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the academy trust and the composition of the board of trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the trustees have an interest. The following related party transactions took place in the financial period.

Mrs Overton, Spouse of Mr Overton, a trustee, was employed by the academy trust as a teaching assistant up to February 2025. Mrs Overton is paid within the normal pay scale for her role and receives no special treatment as a result of her connection to a trustee.

Mrs Morris, Mother of Mrs Parfitt, a trustee, was employed by the academy trust as wraparound staff. Mrs Morris is paid within the normal pay scale for her role and receives no special treatment as a result of her connection to a trustee.

All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook, including notifying ESFA of all transactions made on or after 1 April 2019 and obtaining their approval where required, and with the charitable company's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures relating to connected and related party transactions.

24 Members' liability

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