

Company Registration Number: 07775671 (England & Wales)

WOODCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

WOODCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members	Mr T. Smith (Chair) Mr C. Penn Mrs H. Moore
Trustees	Dr T Baxter Mr M Canham Mrs B Cowley Mr D Cumberland Dr M Gilbertson Mr C Keelan Mr I McArdle Ms V Jones (Oldham) Mrs R Owen Canon E Renshaw (MBE) Mr G Simpson Mr A Smith Mr T Smith
Company registered number	07775671
Company name	Woodchurch High School
Principal and registered office	Carr Bridge Road Woodchurch CH49 7NG
Company secretary	Mrs S Loyden (Chief Operating Officer)
Senior management team	M. Canham L. R. Bannon L. F. Burton J. Cartledge K. H. Griffiths P. Joplin J. Pettener S. Rogers, (retired 30/04/2025) A. Smith S. Loyden, (appointed 03/03/2025)
Independent auditors	Langtons Professional Services Limited 100 Old Hall Street Liverpool L3 9QJ
Bankers	Barclays Bank PLC 2 Liscard Village Wallasey CH45 4JS

WOODCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL
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TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

The Trustees (who are also directors of the Charity for the purposes of the Companies Act) present their annual report together with the audited financial statements and Auditor's report of Woodchurch High School (the Academy and the Group) for the year ended 31 August 2025.

The Trustees confirm that the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Academy and the Group comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the Academy and the Group's governing document. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a directors' report under company law.

The Trust operates an academy for pupils aged 11 to 16 serving a catchment area in Wirral. It has a pupil capacity of 1,405 and had a roll of 1,401 at the end of the summer term.

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

The Academy is a charitable company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity.

The Academy is a company limited by guarantee and was incorporated in England and Wales (registered number 07775671). The address of the registered office is Woodchurch High School, Carr Bridge Road, Woodchurch, Wirral, Merseyside, CH49 7NG.

The Academy was incorporated on the 15th September 2011 and commenced trading on the 1st October 2012. The Company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the Academy.

The Trustees of Woodchurch High School are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law.

The Academy has entered into a funding agreement with the Department for Education, which provides a framework within which the Academy must operate. The principal object of the Academy is to advance, for the public benefit, education in the United Kingdom by leading and developing a school offering a broad and varied curriculum.

Details of the Trustees who served during the year, and to the date these accounts are approved, are included in the Reference and administrative details on page 1.

b. 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.

c. Trustees' indemnities

The Academy through its articles has indemnified its Trustees to the fullest extent permissible by law. During the year, the Academy also purchased and maintained liability insurance for its Trustees.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Structure, governance and management (continued)

d. Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

The management of the Group and the Academy is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Memorandum of Association.

e. Policies adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

The Academy is governed by the governor board which delegates functions as appropriate to governor committees. When the Academy was formed it was decided that the Trustees were authorised to sign the main deeds, documents, reports and accounts on behalf of all directors. The Members and Trustees exercise their powers and functions with a view to fulfilling a largely strategic role in the running of the Academy.

The members and Trustees who were in office at 31 August 2025 and served throughout the period are listed on page 1. All Trustees are provided with copies of procedures, policy, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as a Trustee. Trustees attend training courses as appropriate.

f. Organisational structure

The management structure consists of four levels: the Members, the Trustees, the Senior Leadership Team and the various faculty teams. The aim of the management structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels. The Trustees are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual development plan including drivers and budget, monitoring the Academy by the use of budgets and making major decisions about the direction, vision of the Academy, capital expenditure and senior staff appointments. The Senior Leadership team is comprised of the Head Teacher, Assistant Head Teachers and Business Manager. The Leadership Team control the Academy at a day to day level, implementing the policies laid down by the Trustees and the agreed Vision and Drivers.

g. Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The Senior Leadership Team are set strategic objectives and targets for the academic year, overseen by the School Improvement Partner, Head Teacher and key Personnel Trustees. Reviews take place throughout the year and outcomes are shared with key Personnel Trustees. Outcomes and Impact inform the decisions regarding pay and remuneration for the Senior Leadership Team.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Structure, governance and management (continued)

h. Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

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

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	-
1%-50%	-
51%-99%	-
100%	-

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Total cost of facility time	-	
Total pay bill	11,252,381	
Percentage of total pay bill spent on facility time	-	%

Paid trade union activities

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

i. Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

The Academy owns 100% of the ordinary share capital of Woodchurch High School Sports Complex Limited, a company registered in England and Wales under company number 08110622.

Objectives and activities

WOODCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL
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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Objectives and activities (continued)

a. Objects and aims

The principal object and activity of the Company is the operation of Woodchurch High School, to provide education for pupils of different abilities between the ages of 11 and 16.

In accordance with the Funding Agreement made under section 482 of the Education Act 1996, as substituted by the Education Act 2002, between the Secretary of State for Education and the Academy Trust, the Academy is governed by the Governing Body which exercises its power and functions with a view to fulfilling a largely strategic role in the running of the school. The Funding Agreement specifies the admission arrangements, amongst other things, and that the curriculum, in substance, complies with statutory requirements.

The main objectives of the Academy during the period ended 31st August 2025 are summarised below:

- To ensure that every child enjoys the same high quality education in terms of resourcing, tuition and care; To raise aspirations and encourage ambition for all pupils;
- To raise the standard of educational achievement and progress of all pupils;
- To improve the effectiveness of the Academy by keeping the curriculum and organisational structure under continual review;
- To provide value for money for the funds expended;
- To maintain close links with the community and build successful partnerships with other institutions;
- To conduct the Academy's business in accordance with the highest standards of integrity

Whole School Priorities for 2024-2025

1) Distinctive Christian Character, Vision, Values and Ethos

For the school community to live out and experience our vision every day (Matthew 5:16), modelling and promoting our Christian Values, and developing a moral compass in our pupils that motivates and guides their conduct.

For all leaders to effectively demonstrate how the impact of the school's vision holistically infuses and shapes the strategic and operational direction of the school.

For all staff to consistently celebrate the good, rewarding our vision in action and pupil leadership opportunities.

- The impact will be seen through coherent leadership of Personal Development, continued improvements in Collective Act of Worship, Pastoral and Curriculum Excellence, the profile of Courageous Advocacy and successful, consistent and fair implementation of the rewards and leadership plan - celebrating the good.

2) Behaviour, Culture and Attitudes

For all staff to consistently implement the school's new behaviour curriculum and behaviour policy, in line with expectations.

For all staff to ensure that refined systems are consistently implemented across the school and positively impact on the whole school culture.

For all staff to understand the school's attendance strategy and procedures and work as a collective to ensure all pupils have regular attendance.

- The impact will be continued improvement in corridor behaviour, punctuality to registration and lessons, attendance to form time and to lessons, and a positive and respectful school culture, where high expectations are met

3) Curriculum

For all teaching staff to constantly review their curriculum, responding to the needs of all pupils and being consistent and effective in their focus on learning.

For all leaders to be coherent in articulating their curriculum intent, accurate in their evaluation of its implementation and clear about its impact.

For all teaching staff to accurately and effectively assess pupils, in line with the school's revised policy, ensuring underperformance is identified and addressed through effective Raising Attainment Strategies.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Objectives and activities (continued)

- The impact will be that subject targets are met, leading to whole-school targets being met. Subject Reviews and appraisal will show progress through the year in regard to the written, enacted and online curriculum, with Subject ELPs at least amber in all areas. Revised assessment policy/procedures will ensure more effective assessment, which improves responsive teaching and ensures more accurate and informative reporting.

4) Teaching and Learning

For all staff to embed policy and practice as outlined in the T&L Handbook, focusing specifically on consistently implementation of the school's Signature Strategies, talk and vocabulary instruction, and responsive teaching.

- The impact will be that all teaching staff deliver effective learning experiences in the classroom and meaningfully teach pupils to be independent via Subject Sites. The T&L ELPs will demonstrate clear improvement each term and all Subject Leader and Senior Leadership ELPs should be at least amber in all areas.

5) Business and Operations Management

To effectively support teaching and learning through the management of the school's operational functions

b. Objectives, strategies and activities

The Academy's main strategy is to raise standards of achievement and progress through an unrelenting focus on continuous improvement in all aspects of the organisation. The core purpose of the Academy is teaching and learning; its people and resources are constantly measured by their contribution to the overall quality of teaching and learning and therefore the standards achieved by its pupils.

Key activities which support the main strategic purpose of the organisation are:

- Robust quality assurance processes (Inspections) which are transparent and inform all subsequent actions;
- To improve teaching further so that all is good or better by continuing to share the good practice that exists, ensure that pupils are effectively involved in the learning in all lessons and ensuring teachers make frequent checks on the extent to which pupils understand their learning;
- Secure use of data and tracking to measure progress and inform actions and intervention and to use this to encourage even higher aspirations so that pupils achieve their full potential in all subjects;
- To improve and develop our Behaviour for Learning strategy and decrease the number of fixed term exclusions and decrease the percentage of persistent absenteeism and other absenteeism;
- A constant review of Continuous Professional Development and training opportunities for staff;
- To continue to develop the Christian Ethos;
- A core structure which allows all staff and students to understand their role within the organisation and also to ensure that lines of accountability are also clear;
- Structures to support the organisation and Integration of all internal and external resources and support available for both pupils and staff. The Academy's main strategy is to raise standards of achievement and progress through an unrelenting focus on continuous improvement in all aspects of the organisation. The core purpose of the Academy is teaching and learning; its people and resources are constantly measured by their contribution to the overall quality of teaching and learning and therefore the standards achieved by its pupils.

Equal Opportunities Policy

The Trustees recognise that equal opportunities should be an integral part of good practice within the workplace. The Academy aims to establish equal opportunity in all areas of its activities including creating a working environment in which the contribution and needs of all people are valued.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Objectives and activities (continued)

c. Public benefit

Inextricably linked to the main objectives of the Academy is the aim of contributing to the public. Through the provision of a wide range of educational and other activities, the Academy aims to contribute considerable benefit to the local community and to the community of the Chester Diocese. A sample of such events include the following:

- A wide range of support, both curriculum and operational, for Church of England Primary Schools within the Chester Diocese.
- The school's farm welcomes the local community, specialist and primary schools to participate in horticultural and animal activities.
- Numerous community events are held, including school fairs and affiliation with the Rotary Club.
- Local Primary and Special Schools are invited to participate in a variety of events being run by different faculties such as Art, Science, and Drama.
- The Sports Complex provides a high quality sports facility for community groups and larger clubs to provide a range of activities for local community participation.
- Our students have been Involved with the community focused Archbishop of York Award.

The Academy has given a high priority to providing public benefit to a cross section of the community, but perhaps the greatest benefit that the Academy can offer is the provision of an education that maximises each student's potential to develop principled, informed and open minded to become confident citizens who respect the beliefs of others and who are determined to make a positive contribution to society.

The Trustees have considered the Impact of the public benefit requirement including the guidance issued by the Charity Commission. The Academy provides educational services to all children in the local area. The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance provided by the Charities Commission.

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

a. Key performance indicators

Academy Trust (single entity)

Incoming Resources	2025: £13m	2024: £13m
Net income/expenditure for the year	2025: (£288k)	2024: (£126k)
Funds as at 31 August	2025: £24.5m	2024: £24.6m
Net current assets	2025: £2.9m	2024: £3.5m
Cash generated from operations	2025: (£663k)	2024: £195k

The Academy's balance sheet remains in a strong position. The net assets of the group as at 31 August 2025 (as represented by the funds) amounts to £24.5m as opposed £24.6m in the previous year. There has been an excess of expenditure over income in the year to 31 August 2025 which was expected due to a more rapid rise in costs than income.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

b. Going concern

The board of Trustees has a reasonable expectation that the Academy has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can found In the Accounting Policies.

The Headteacher, Chief Operating Officer and key management personnel refer to the three rolling budgets when making all strategic decisions to ensure that plans are sustainable. This is particularly relevant at a time when budgets remain stable but staffing and other costs are escalating. Reference is made to the 'School Resource Dashboard and KPIs are considered each term at Governor Committee meetings.

The school is popular and heavily oversubscribed, allowing for fairly accurate long term budget forecasting

c. Examination results

Examination results for 2024 -25 were as follows:

Attainment 8	2024/25: 37.93%	2023/24: 38.32%
Basics 9-4	2024/25: 51.6%	2023/24: 52.5%
Basics 9-5	2024/25: 27.8%	2023/24: 26.4%

To ensure that standards are continually raised, the Academy, Governing Body and the Senior Leadership team:

- Operate a robust quality assurance calendar which monitors the quality of teaching and learning;
- Is scrutinised and supported by an independent School Improvement Partner is scrutinised, challenged and inspected by outstanding partner schools;
- Undertakes a rigorous review of assessment and attainment using RAISEONLINE, SISRA, and FFT to measure the progress of pupils, paying particular regard to the achievement on entry and levels of progress secured, particular emphasis on Pupil Premium Pupils.

Financial review

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Strategic report (continued)

a. Capital reserves policy

The purpose of the policy is to consider that academies are expected to create reserves from their annual GAG funding. The Department for Education (DfE) provide some Devolved Capital Funding to academies, albeit at a reduced level during their first three years of occupation. The DfE provides no other annual capital funding - current annual amount is approximately £28,000. As assets of new-build academies are usually purchased simultaneously, they reach the need for replenishment simultaneously.

The Trustees of Woodchurch High School require a capital reserve to be created to fund future capital expenditure. These are normally met via transfers from GAG funding or funded via unrestricted reserves. The Academy holds assets to fund planned capital expenditure over the next three years. As such, assets should be invested to minimise risk.

Revenue reserves policy

Academies are expected to hold contingency reserves from their annual GAG funding or other income. The Trustees of Woodchurch High School require a revenue reserve to be created to fund expenditure related to the School Development Plan, strategic long-term aims and developments.

The procedure of the Academy is to carry forward a prudent level of resources designed to meet the long-term cyclical needs of renewal and any other unforeseen contingencies, subject to any constraint on the level of permitted resources that the Department for Education (DfE) may impose.

The actual level of reserves held as at 31 August 2025 is £24.5m (including £2.9m of free reserves of which £2.2m are revenue reserves) compared to the Reserves Policy value of £2m.

b. Investment policy

The Academy's investment policy is as follows:

- To regularly monitor cash flow and current account balances to ensure immediate financial commitments can be met (payroll and payment runs) and that the current account has adequate balances to meet forthcoming commitments.
- To maintain a working balance of a minimum of £50,000 to respond to unexpected financial demands.
- The academy will normally seek to avoid its current account going overdrawn.
- The academy will identify funds surplus to immediate cash requirements and transfer to the Treasury Account bearing a higher interest rate.
- Periodically (at least annually) review interest rates and compare with other investment opportunities.
- The academy's current policy is to only invest funds in risk-free and immediately assessable deposit accounts.
- Any change in policy requires the approval of the trustees via the Business & Operations Committee.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

c. Principal risks and uncertainties

Falling pupil numbers are a principal risk for the Academy. Pupil numbers and the impact on budget, planning and outcomes continue to be carefully monitored by the Academy. The senior leadership team meets to determine a strategy to maintain our healthy roll numbers. The Academy continues its aggressive marketing campaigns including local paper advertising, primary magazines, bus advertisements and train station advertisements. The Academy is currently over-subscribed and the appeals are submitted each year.

Pupil premium funding has been identified as a principal risk faced by the Academy. Pupil premium funding is forecasted for future years, based on information from the DfE. A budget plan is allocated and funding is utilised for the purposes of provision. Staff are recruited within this budget to enable us to manage future requirements in line with funding received.

The budget monitoring process is ongoing throughout the year and known changes are addressed to reflect any future impact.

d. Financial risk management objectives and policies

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Academy and the Group is exposed, relating to strategic, reputational, operational, compliance, financial and curriculum risks. The Trustees are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate the exposure to major risks.

e. Surplus

The pension fund was in surplus as at 31 August 2025 in the amount of £1,674,000 (2024: deficit £925,000). This is due to the Local Government Pension Fund moving out of a deficit position during the year to 31 August 2025. The surplus is not expected to crystallise immediately and therefore has not been recognised in the accounts. More information relating to the pension fund is explained in Note 28 to the financial statements.

f. Principal funding

Most of the Academy's income is obtained from the Department for Education (DfE) in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE during the year to 31 August 2025 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Fundraising

The Academy had no fundraising activities requiring disclosure under the provisions of the Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Plans for future periods

The main objectives of the Academy for the academic year 2025/2026 are summarised below:

1) Distinctive Christian Character, Vision, Values and Ethos

For the school community to live out and experience our vision every day (Matthew 5:16), modelling and promoting our Christian Values, and developing a moral compass in our pupils that motivates and guides their conduct.

For all leaders to effectively demonstrate how the impact of the school's vision holistically infuses and shapes the strategic and operational direction of the school.

For all staff to consistently celebrate the good, rewarding our vision in action and pupil leadership opportunities.

• The impact will be seen through coherent leadership of Personal Development, continued improvements in Collective Act of Worship, Pastoral and Curriculum Excellence, the profile of Courageous Advocacy and successful, consistent and fair implementation of the rewards and leadership plan - celebrating the good.

2) Behaviour, Culture and Attitudes

For all staff to consistently implement the school's new behaviour curriculum and behaviour policy, in line with expectations, to ensure pupils are Ready, Respectful and Safe.

For all staff to ensure that refined systems (including those for punctuality, corridor, duty etc.) are consistently implemented across the school and positively impact on whole school culture.

For all staff to understand the school's attendance strategy and work as a collective to ensure all pupils have regular attendance.

The impact will be continued improvement in corridor behaviour, punctuality to registration and lessons, attendance to form time and to lessons, and a positive and respectful school culture, where high expectations are met. The impact will also be that whole school and cohort attendance figures are increased and that instances of Persistence/Severe Absence are reduced.

3) Curriculum

For all teaching staff to constantly review their curriculum, responding to the needs of all pupils and being consistent and effective in their focus on learning through the curriculum.

For all leaders to be coherent in articulating their curriculum intent, accurate in their evaluation of its implementation and clear about its impact.

For all teaching staff to accurately and effectively assess pupils, in line with the school's revised policy.

For all staff to embed policy and practice as outlined in the T&L Handbook, focusing specifically on consistently implementation of the school's Signature Strategies, talk and vocabulary instruction, and responsive teaching.

The impact will be that subject targets are met, leading to whole-school targets being met with significant improvement being made in Science, Geography, History and MFL. Subject Reviews and appraisal will show progress through the year in regard to the written, enacted and online curriculum, with Subject ELPs at least amber in all areas. Revised assessment policy/procedures will ensure more effective assessment, which improves responsive teaching and ensures more accurate and informative reporting. The impact will be that all teaching staff deliver effective learning experiences in the classroom and meaningfully teach pupils to be independent via Subject Sites. The T&L ELPs will demonstrate clear improvement each term and all Subject Leader and Senior Leadership ELPs should be at least amber in all areas.

4) Vulnerable Impact groups: Pupil Premium, EAL, CLA and SEND

For all teaching and support staff to be clear about impact groups and individuals, ensuring effective in-class targeted intervention and support.

For all subject and curriculum leaders to ensure underperformance is identified and addressed through effective Raising Attainment Strategies.

For all leaders to monitor and track vulnerable groups and respond effectively through inclusion, support and targeted interventions which positively impact on their outcomes.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Plans for future periods (continued)

The impact will be that targeted individuals and groups will be tightly monitored and receive effective support. This will impact positively on their progress and attainment.

5) Operational Functions

To strengthen the efficiency, sustainability, and impact of the school's operational functions

The impact will be a financially sustainable school where resources are managed efficiently and effectively to maximise their contribution to pupil outcomes.

Disclosure of information to auditors

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware, and
- that 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 auditors are 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 11 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr T Smith
(Chair of Trustees)



Mr M Canham
(Accounting Officer)

WOODCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL
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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Scope of responsibility

As Trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Woodchurch High School 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.

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

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the 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 Woodchurch High School and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

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 4 times during the year.

Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Dr T Baxter	3	4
Mr M Canham	4	4
Mrs B Cowley	1	4
Mr D Cumberland	3	4
Dr M Gilbertson	3	4
Mr C Keelan	4	4
Mr I McArdle	1	4
Ms V Jones (Oldham)	3	4
Mrs H Moore	0	4
Mrs R Owen	4	4
Canon E Renshaw (MBE)	4	4
Mr G Simpson	1	4
Mr A Smith	4	4
Mr T Smith	2	4

The Governing Body has determined that it is able to convene on a termly basis and maintain effective oversight, particularly as the Chair of the Board meets regularly with the Headteacher to monitor progress and is kept informed of any pertinent matters which may arise from time to time. Trustees receive monthly reports relating to the financial positions 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 the school at any time to meet with the Headteacher and other senior employees or simply to observe aspects of the school day.

The Business & Operations Committee is a sub-committee of the main board of Trustees. Its purpose is to monitor Finance, Audit, Personnel, Operational Compliance and Health & Safety of the Academy and report to the Trustees.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr M. Canham	3	3
Dr M. Gilbertson	3	3
Mr I. McArdle	1	3
Mrs R. Owen	3	3
Canon E. Renshaw	3	3
Mr T. Smith	3	3
Mr A. Smith	0	3
	3	3

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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Review of value for money

As accounting officer, the Headteacher has responsibility for ensuring that the Academy 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's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the board of Trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where appropriate. The accounting officer for the Academy has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- o Improving educational results and outcomes
- o Challenged recruitment/replacement of staff
- o Led a robust and accountable appraisal system/policy Including CPD
- o Led a robust and accountable disciplinary system/policy

Improving outcomes for our pupils is our top priority. A measure of success is the proportion of Year 11 pupils achieving 9-4 including English, Maths and Science. The use of our Pupil Premium and School led Tutoring Funding is used to ensure pupils receive appropriate interventions.

Financial governance and oversight

The Academy is governed by a body of Trustees drawn from staff, parents, the local Authority and those appointed by our partner, the Church of England. The Governing Body meets at least four times a year. It approves the budget and reviews it throughout the year. It considers the Annual Report and Accounts, and monitors audit points raised by the independent auditors. The Governing Body takes an active interest in teaching and learning within the Academy, receiving updates on tracking data and holding the Senior Leadership Team accountable for performance. More detailed financial oversight is supplied by the Business & Operations Committee, which meets three times per year. This Committee reviews internal management accounts, and receives termly internal audit reports prepared by the Internal Auditor. The Business & Operations Committee is also responsible for the maintenance of the Academy's Risk Register, which it reviews termly, taking into account changes in the wider political and economic climate. This helps direct the Academy's strategic planning to avoid the waste of time, money and resources. The Governing Body is also supported by this committee in helping to ensure that proper consideration has been given to recruiting, retaining, and rewarding staff in order to offer the best possible opportunities to our pupils, while recognising the importance of staffing costs as a proportion of the overall budget. The Committees operate in accordance with their Terms of Reference.

Better purchasing - ensuring value for money

Contracts and services are regularly appraised and renegotiated when appropriate to ensure value for money. The Academy takes advantage of consortia when appropriate, to obtain economies of scale. Individual budget holders are held accountable for the use of their budgets, and are helped by Resource Assistants and Finance Officers in sourcing best value. Tight monitoring of budgets is carried out and where applicable, spend is challenged, eg, reprographics charges, licences, subscriptions. The following examples within the year demonstrate value for money:

- 1) Continuous review of all software systems
- 2) Review of contracts due for renewal to source best value
- 3) Challenge of external purchases by performing tasks in-house ie. buildings' maintenance, painting, plumbing
- 4) Challenge of recruitment based on retiring staff - use of new online systems, restructured roles
- 5) Engagement with Let's Go Zero to enhance energy efficiency

WOODCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Review of value for money (continued)

Maximising Income generation

The Academy explores every opportunity to generate income through additional funding streams such as the hire of the Academy facilities, attracting available grants, in-house catering and providing a traded service for primary schools. We continue to review our Catering Provision and sales have increased year on year. Managing cash, the Academy Trust ensures that all surplus cash balances are invested in interest bearing accounts to maximise interest earning potential. Investment institutions are selected carefully to provide the most acceptable balance of return and risk.

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 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 Woodchurch High School 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 Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Academy 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's significant risks that 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 Board of Trustees.

The risk and control framework

The Academy'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 Finance and General Purposes 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

The Board of Trustees has decided to employ Dominic Ion as internal auditor.

The internal auditor's role includes giving assurance on the Academy's financial position by performing a range of checks. In particular the checks carried out in the current period included a full review and verification of the trial balance and testing of the:

- o payroll systems

WOODCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

The risk and control framework (continued)

- o purchase systems
- o control accounts/bank reconciliation.

The Internal Auditor presents his findings to the Business & Operations Committee in the Spring and Summer Terms (the Autumn Term being concerned with the annual external audit).

In addition, the IA provides independent assurance that:

The financial responsibilities of the Governing Body are being properly discharged Resources are managed in an efficient, economical and effective manner

Sound systems of internal financial control are being maintained and Financial considerations are fully taken into account in reaching decisions

The Business & Operations Committee will consider the Internal Auditors findings,as part of its review of the Academy's internal control system. The work carried out by the Internal Auditor will be designed to mitigate risks and provide assurance to the external auditors.

On a semi-annual basis, the internal auditor reports to the board of Trustees through the Business & Operations committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Trustees' financial responsibilities.

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 financial management and governance self-assessment process;
- on discharge of the Board of Trustees financial decisions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress;
- the work of the executive managers within the Academy who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- the work of the external auditors;
- correspondence from DfE e.g. FNI/NtI and 'minded to' letters.

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

Conclusion

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

WOODCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 11 December 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Mr T Smith
Chair of Trustees



Mr M Canham
Accounting Officer

WOODCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

As accounting officer of Woodchurch High School I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Board of Trustees and the Department for Education (DfE) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding received by the Academy, under the funding agreement in place between the Academy and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2025.

I confirm that I and the Academy Board of Trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the Academy, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the Academy's funding agreement and the Academy Trust Handbook 2025.

I confirm that no instances of material irregularity, impropriety or funding 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.



Mr M Canham
Accounting Officer
Date: 11/12/2025

WOODCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

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 Group and the charitable company and of their incoming resources and application of resources, including their 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 of 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 group will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Group and the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Group and 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 Group and 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 their conduct and operation the Group and the charitable company apply 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 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 group'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 11 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr T Smith
(Chair of Trustees)



Mr M Canham
(Accounting Officer)

WOODCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF
WOODCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Woodchurch High School (the 'parent Academy') and its subsidiaries (the 'Group') for the year ended 31 August 2025 which comprise the Consolidated statement of financial activities, the Consolidated balance sheet, the Academy balance sheet, the Consolidated statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 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 Group's and of the parent Academy's affairs as at 31 August 2025 and of the Group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by the Department for Education.

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 Group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council'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 Group's or the parent Academy'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.

WOODCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF
WOODCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL (CONTINUED)**

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' 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.

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 our knowledge and understanding of the Group and the parent Academy and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report including the 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:

- the parent Academy has not kept adequate accounting records, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent Academy 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.

WOODCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF
WOODCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL (CONTINUED)**

Responsibilities of trustees

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

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Group's and the parent Academy'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 Group or the parent Academy or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

WOODCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF
WOODCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL (CONTINUED)**

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

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

The objectives of our audit, in respect to fraud, are:

- to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud;
- to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses; and
- to respond appropriately to fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit.

However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both those charged with governance of the academy and its management.

Our approach was as follows:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the academy and determined that the most significant are those that relate to the reporting framework (FRS 102 and the Companies Act 2006), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the FRS102 (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by the DfE, the Charities Act 2011, relevant tax compliance regulations in the UK and the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
- We understood how the academy is complying with those frameworks by making enquiries of management and trustees. Through consideration of the results of our audit procedures we were able to either corroborate or provide contrary evidence which was then followed up.

Based on our understanding we designed our audit procedures to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations. Our procedures involved:

- enquiries of the academy's management; and
- journal entry testing, with a focus on manual consolidation journals and journals indicating large or unusual transactions based on our understanding of the academy.
- We assessed the susceptibility of the academy's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur by meeting with management to understand where it considered there was susceptibility to fraud. Where the risk was considered to be higher, we performed audit procedures to address each identified fraud risk or other risk of material misstatement. These procedures included the assessment of items identified by management as non-recurring, any significant transactions that were unusual or outside the normal course of business, and the testing of manual journals. All such procedures were designed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements were free from material fraud or error.

WOODCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF
WOODCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL (CONTINUED)**

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 Auditors' report.

Use of our report

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



Mr A J McCall (Senior statutory auditor)

for and on behalf of
Langtons Professional Services Limited
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors

100 Old Hall Street
Liverpool
L3 9QJ

11 December 2025

WOODCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO
WOODCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION**

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 16/05/24 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 2024 to 2025, 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 Woodchurch High School during the year 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 have not been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to Woodchurch High School 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 Woodchurch High School 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 Woodchurch High School and the Secretary of State for Education, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Woodchurch High School's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Woodchurch High School's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 08/08/2014 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2024, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

WOODCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO
WOODCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION (CONTINUED)**

Approach

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountant of Academy Trusts issued by DfE. We performed a limited assurance engagement as defined in our engagement letter.

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw our conclusion includes:

- Reviewing the Academy's activities to ensure adherence to the funding agreement, the Academy Trust Handbook, and other charitable objectives;
- Assessment of the control environment and operating procedures which should reduce the risk of irregularity;
- Oversight of meeting minutes, financial policies and procedures, and management accounts to verify compliance with the regularity framework; and,
- Review of the accounting officer's statements regarding regularity and assessment of supporting evidence.

Conclusion

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



Mr A J McCall

Langtons Professional Services Limited
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors

Date: 11 December 2025

WOODCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	6,238	-	27,946	34,184	32,507
Other trading activities		574,209	524,013	-	1,098,222	1,090,022
Investments	6	144,481	-	-	144,481	164,600
Charitable activities		-	12,384,403	-	12,384,403	11,834,734
Total income		724,928	12,908,416	27,946	13,661,290	13,121,863
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	8	620,932	13,242,787	695,583	14,559,302	13,295,313
Total expenditure		620,932	13,242,787	695,583	14,559,302	13,295,313
Net income/(expenditure)		103,996	(334,371)	(667,637)	(898,012)	(173,450)
Transfers between funds	21	-	(271,875)	271,875	-	-
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)		103,996	(606,246)	(395,762)	(898,012)	(173,450)
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	27	-	2,439,000	-	2,439,000	(36,000)
Pension surplus not recognised	27	-	(1,674,000)	-	(1,674,000)	-
Net movement in funds		103,996	158,754	(395,762)	(133,012)	(209,450)
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		3,159,375	1,294,789	22,034,439	26,488,603	26,698,053
Net movement in funds		103,996	158,754	(395,762)	(133,012)	(209,450)

WOODCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

Note	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Total funds carried forward	<u><u>3,263,371</u></u>	<u><u>1,453,543</u></u>	<u><u>21,638,677</u></u>	<u><u>26,355,591</u></u>	<u><u>26,488,603</u></u>

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

The notes on pages 35 to 68 form part of these financial statements.

WOODCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 07775671

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025

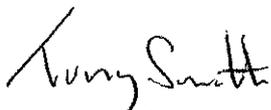
	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Intangible assets	14	6,207	11,033
Tangible assets	15	23,485,360	23,946,611
		<u>23,491,567</u>	<u>23,957,644</u>
Current assets			
Stocks	17	7,696	8,296
Debtors	18	496,208	353,244
Cash at bank and in hand		3,486,051	4,149,270
		<u>3,989,955</u>	<u>4,510,810</u>
Current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	19	(815,556)	(751,512)
Net current assets		<u>3,174,399</u>	<u>3,759,298</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>26,665,966</u>	<u>27,716,942</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	20	(310,375)	(303,339)
Net assets excluding pension asset / liability		<u>26,355,591</u>	<u>27,413,603</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme asset / liability	27	-	(925,000)
Total net assets		<u><u>26,355,591</u></u>	<u><u>26,488,603</u></u>

WOODCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 07775671

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025

	Note		2025 £	2024 £
Funds of the Academy				
Restricted funds:				
Fixed asset funds	21	21,638,677	22,034,439	
Restricted income funds	21	1,453,543	2,219,789	
		<u>23,092,220</u>	<u>24,254,228</u>	
Restricted funds excluding pension asset	21	23,092,220	24,254,228	
Pension reserve	21	-	(925,000)	
		<u>23,092,220</u>	<u>23,329,228</u>	
Total restricted funds	21		23,092,220	23,329,228
Unrestricted income funds	21		3,263,371	3,159,375
			<u>26,355,591</u>	<u>26,488,603</u>
Total funds			26,355,591	26,488,603

The financial statements on pages 28 to 68 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 11 December 2025 and are signed on their behalf, by:


Mr T Smith
 (Chair of Trustees)


Mr M Canham
 (Accounting Officer)

The notes on pages 35 to 68 form part of these financial statements.

WOODCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 07775671

ACADEMY BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Intangible assets	14	6,207	11,033
Tangible assets	15	21,632,469	22,023,405
Investments	16	1	1
		<u>21,638,677</u>	<u>22,034,439</u>
Current assets			
Stocks	17	7,696	8,296
Debtors	18	443,296	342,143
Cash at bank and in hand		3,254,644	3,888,332
		<u>3,705,636</u>	<u>4,238,771</u>
Current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	19	(800,822)	(740,950)
Net current assets		<u>2,904,814</u>	<u>3,497,821</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>24,543,491</u>	<u>25,532,260</u>
Net assets excluding pension asset / liability		<u>24,543,491</u>	<u>25,532,260</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme asset / liability	27	-	(925,000)
Total net assets		<u><u>24,543,491</u></u>	<u><u>24,607,260</u></u>

WOODCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 07775671

ACADEMY BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025

	Note		2025 £	2024 £
Funds of the Academy				
Restricted funds:				
Fixed asset funds	21	21,638,677	22,034,439	
Restricted income funds	21	1,454,480	2,219,789	
Restricted funds excluding pension asset / liability	21	<u>23,093,157</u>	<u>24,254,228</u>	
Pension reserve	21	-	(925,000)	
Total restricted funds	21		23,093,157	23,329,228
Unrestricted income funds	21		1,450,334	1,278,032
Total funds			<u>24,543,491</u>	<u>24,607,260</u>

The financial statements on pages 28 to 68 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 11 December 2025 and are signed on their behalf, by:



Mr T Smith
(Chair of Trustees)



Mr M Canham
(Accounting Officer)

The notes on pages 35 to 68 form part of these financial statements.

WOODCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	23	(528,021)	210,741
Cash flows from investing activities	24	(135,200)	(15,821)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(663,221)	194,920
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		4,149,272	3,954,350
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	25, 26	<u>3,486,051</u>	<u>4,149,270</u>

The notes on pages 35 to 68 form part of these financial statements

WOODCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1. Accounting policies

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

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements of the Group, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historic 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.

The Consolidated statement of financial activities (SOFA) and Consolidated balance sheet consolidate the financial statements of the Academy and its subsidiary undertaking. The results of the subsidiary are consolidated on a line by line basis.

The Academy has taken advantage of the exemption allowed under section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 and has not presented its own Statement of financial activities in these financial statements.

1.2 Going concern

The Trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Academy 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 has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the Academy's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

WOODCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.3 Income

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

• **Grants**

Grants are included in the Consolidated 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 Consolidated statement of financial activities in the year for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the year is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

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

• **Donations**

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

• **Other income**

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

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 allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.4 Expenditure (continued)

• **Charitable activities**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.5 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Group; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

1.6 Intangible assets

Intangible assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Intangible assets are initially recognised at cost and are subsequently measured at cost net of amortisation and any provision for impairment.

Amortisation is provided on intangible assets at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life.

The estimated useful lives are as follows:

Computer software	- 5 years
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1.7 Tangible fixed assets

Assets costing £1,000 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 Consolidated 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 Consolidated 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 over its expected useful life, as follows:

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.7 Tangible fixed assets (continued)

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Short-term leasehold property	-	2%	Straight line
Fixtures and fittings - LED lighting	-	5%	Straight line
Fixtures and fittings	-	between 10% and 25%	Straight line
Computer equipment	-	33%	Straight line
Motor vehicles	-	25%	Reducing balance

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 Consolidated statement of financial activities.

1.8 Investments

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the Balance sheet date, unless the value cannot be measured reliably in which case it is measured at cost less impairment. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and presented as 'Gains/(Losses) on investments' in the Consolidated statement of financial activities.

1.9 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

1.10 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1.11 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1.12 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 Group 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.

WOODCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.13 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 18. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Amounts due to the Academy's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in notes 19 and 20. 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. Amounts due to the Academy's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

1.14 Pensions

Retirement benefits to employees of the Group 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 Group 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 Group 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 Consolidated 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.

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.15 Agency arrangements

The Academy Trust acts as an agent in distributing payroll payments from Wirral Borough Council to a local authority primary school. Payments received from Wirral BC and subsequent disbursements to the primary school are excluded from the statement of financial activities as the Academy Trust does not have control over the funds. The Academy Trust charges for the payroll service provision based on the number of employees and this is recognised in the statement of financial activities. The funds received and paid, and any balances held, are disclosed in note 31.

The arrangement with Wirral BC ceased on 30th September 2025.

1.16 Fund accounting

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

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

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

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

1.17 Employee termination benefits

Termination payments are recognised as soon as the Academy is aware of the obligation to make the payment.

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

2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment

Estimates and judgments 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 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 27, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2025. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Critical areas of judgment:

A critical area of judgment for the School is to not recognise the pension surplus after taking into consideration FRS102 section 28.22 which states that a pension surplus can be recognised only to the extent an entity is able to recover the surplus, either through reduced contributions in the future, or through refunds from the scheme (more details can be found in note 27).

3. Income from donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Donations	6,238	-	6,238
Capital grants	-	27,946	27,946
	6,238	27,946	34,184

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

3. Income from donations and capital grants (continued)

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Donations	4,443	-	4,443
Capital grants	-	28,064	28,064
	4,443	28,064	32,507
	4,443	28,064	32,507

4. Funding for the Academy's charitable activities

	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
DfE grants		
General Annual Grant	10,183,551	10,183,551
Other DfE/ESFA grants	1,506,076	1,506,076
	11,689,627	11,689,627
Other Government grants		
SEN income	646,871	646,871
Local authority grants	47,905	47,905
	694,776	694,776
	12,384,403	12,384,403

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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4. Funding for the Academy's charitable activities (continued)

	<i>Restricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
DfE grants		
General Annual Grant	9,790,399	9,790,399
Other DfE/ESFA grants	1,293,259	1,293,259
	<u>11,083,658</u>	<u>11,083,658</u>
Other Government grants		
SEN Income	649,984	649,984
Local authority grants	101,092	101,092
	<u>751,076</u>	<u>751,076</u>
Total	<u>11,834,734</u>	<u>11,834,734</u>

5. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
FSM income	-	211,654	211,654
Other activities for raising funds	58,058	312,359	370,417
Hire of school facilities	245	-	245
Catering sales	359,738	-	359,738
Income from ancillary trading activities	156,168	-	156,168
	<u>574,209</u>	<u>524,013</u>	<u>1,098,222</u>

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

5. Income from other trading activities (continued)

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
FSM income	-	197,399	197,399
Other activities for raising funds	49,952	327,863	377,815
Catering sales	360,465	-	360,465
Income from ancillary activities	154,343	-	154,343
	<u>564,760</u>	<u>525,262</u>	<u>1,090,022</u>

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

6. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Bank interest	<u>144,481</u>	<u>144,481</u>

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Bank interest	<u>164,600</u>	<u>164,600</u>

7. Expenditure

	Staff Costs 2025 £	Premises 2025 £	Other 2025 £	Total 2025 £
EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS				
Direct costs	8,957,268	765,901	559,685	10,282,854
Allocated support costs	2,295,113	-	1,981,335	4,276,448
	<u>11,252,381</u>	<u>765,901</u>	<u>2,541,020</u>	<u>14,559,302</u>

	<i>Staff Costs 2024 £</i>	<i>Premises 2024 £</i>	<i>Other 2024 £</i>	<i>Total 2024 £</i>
EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS				
Direct costs	8,082,935	730,532	634,542	9,448,009
Allocated support costs	2,006,924	-	1,840,380	3,847,304
	<u>10,089,859</u>	<u>730,532</u>	<u>2,474,922</u>	<u>13,295,313</u>

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

8. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £
Funding for educational operations	620,932	13,938,370	14,559,302

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Total 2024 £</i>
Funding for educational operations	543,028	12,752,285	13,295,313

9. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2025 £	Support costs 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Funding for educational operations	10,282,854	4,276,448	14,559,302

	<i>Activities undertaken directly 2024 £</i>	<i>Support costs 2024 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Funding for educational operations	9,448,009	3,847,304	13,295,313

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

9. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of direct costs

	Total funds 2025 £	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Staff costs	8,957,268	8,082,935
Depreciation	765,901	730,532
Technology costs	42,781	40,471
Educational supplies	317,734	357,146
Examination fees	170,128	159,967
Staff development	20,956	67,009
Other direct costs	8,086	9,949
	<u><u>10,282,854</u></u>	<u><u>9,448,009</u></u>

Analysis of support costs

	Total funds 2025 £	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Staff costs	2,295,114	2,006,924
Staff training	6,335	19,742
Maintenance of premises and equipment	219,984	240,787
Cleaning	47,693	54,716
Rent and rates	101,622	107,102
Energy costs	294,075	173,641
Insurance	41,738	38,652
Catering	540,491	519,918
Other support costs	705,106	665,672
Governance costs	24,290	20,150
	<u><u>4,276,448</u></u>	<u><u>3,847,304</u></u>

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

10. Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2025 £	2024 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	761,071	730,532
Amortisation of intangible assets	4,826	4,826
Fees paid to auditors for:		
- audit	12,700	12,250
- other services	3,000	3,000
	780,597	752,634

11. Staff

a. Staff costs and employee benefits

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	Group 2025 £	Group 2024 £	Academy 2025 £	Academy 2024 £
Wages and salaries	8,514,405	7,831,064	8,448,037	7,770,267
Social security costs	931,998	752,694	931,998	752,694
Pension costs	1,805,978	1,506,101	1,805,978	1,506,101
	11,252,381	10,089,859	11,186,013	10,029,062
			Group 2025 £	Group 2024 £
Severance payments			-	980
			-	980

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

11. Staff (continued)

b. Staff numbers

The average number of persons employed by the Group and the Academy during the year was as follows:

	Group 2025	<i>Group 2024</i>
Leadership	10	11
Teachers	101	107
Administration and support	130	127
	<u>241</u>	<u>245</u>

c. Higher paid staff

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

	Group 2025 No.	<i>Group 2024 No.</i>
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	13	4
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	2	2
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	1	1
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	1	1
In the band £100,001 - £110,000	2	2
In the band £120,001 - £130,000	0	1
In the band £130,001 - £140,000	1	0
	<u>20</u>	<u>11</u>

d. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Group 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 Group was £1,230,098 (2024 - £1,180,371).

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

12. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more Trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the Academy. 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. The value of Trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

		2025	2024
		£	£
Mr M Canham	Remuneration	135,000 -	85,000 -
		140,000	90,000
	Pension contributions paid	35,000 -	20,000 -
		40,000	25,000
Mr A Smith	Remuneration	90,000 -	85,000 -
		95,000	90,000
	Pension contributions paid	25,000 -	20,000 -
		30,000	25,000
Mr G Simpson	Remuneration	35,000 -	35,000 -
		40,000	40,000
	Pension contributions paid	5,000 -	5,000 -
		10,000	10,000

During the year ended 31 August 2025, expenses totalling £170 were reimbursed or paid directly to 1 Trustee (2024 - *£NIL to Trustee*). The nature of the expense was travel and mileage.

13. Trustees' and Officers' insurance

Insurance cover is held with Zurich which covers the whole school, with no separate amounts identifiable for governors.

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

14. Intangible assets

Group

	Computer software £
Cost	
At 1 September 2024	24,132
At 31 August 2025	<u>24,132</u>
Amortisation	
At 1 September 2024	13,098
Charge for the year	4,826
At 31 August 2025	<u>17,925</u>
Net book value	
At 31 August 2025	<u>6,207</u>
At 31 August 2024	<u>11,034</u>

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

14. Intangible assets (continued)

Academy

	Computer software £
Cost	
At 1 September 2024	24,132
At 31 August 2025	<u>24,132</u>
Amortisation	
At 1 September 2024	13,098
Charge for the year	4,826
At 31 August 2025	<u>17,925</u>
Net book value	
At 31 August 2025	<u>6,207</u>
<i>At 31 August 2024</i>	<u>11,034</u>

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

15. Tangible fixed assets

Group

	Freehold property £	Long-term leasehold property £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation					
At 1 September 2024	27,375,618	2,650,000	668,017	161,249	30,854,884
Additions	21,619	-	121,959	157,909	301,487
Disposals	-	-	(29,701)	(53,717)	(83,418)
At 31 August 2025	<u>27,397,237</u>	<u>2,650,000</u>	<u>760,275</u>	<u>265,441</u>	<u>31,072,953</u>
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2024	5,779,088	769,271	256,504	103,411	6,908,274
Charge for the year	526,154	66,249	100,725	67,943	761,071
On disposals	-	-	(29,701)	(52,051)	(81,752)
At 31 August 2025	<u>6,305,242</u>	<u>835,520</u>	<u>327,528</u>	<u>119,303</u>	<u>7,587,593</u>
Net book value					
At 31 August 2025	<u><u>21,091,995</u></u>	<u><u>1,814,480</u></u>	<u><u>432,747</u></u>	<u><u>146,138</u></u>	<u><u>23,485,360</u></u>
At 31 August 2024	<u><u>21,596,530</u></u>	<u><u>1,880,730</u></u>	<u><u>411,513</u></u>	<u><u>57,838</u></u>	<u><u>23,946,611</u></u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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15. Tangible fixed assets (continued)

Academy

	Freehold property £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation				
At 1 September 2024	27,375,618	615,620	161,249	28,152,487
Additions	21,619	121,959	157,909	301,487
Disposals	-	(29,701)	(53,717)	(83,418)
At 31 August 2025	<u>27,397,237</u>	<u>707,878</u>	<u>265,441</u>	<u>28,370,556</u>
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2024	5,779,088	246,584	103,411	6,129,083
Charge for the year	526,154	96,659	67,943	690,756
On disposals	-	(29,701)	(52,051)	(81,752)
At 31 August 2025	<u>6,305,242</u>	<u>313,542</u>	<u>119,303</u>	<u>6,738,087</u>
Net book value				
At 31 August 2025	<u>21,091,995</u>	<u>394,336</u>	<u>146,138</u>	<u>21,632,469</u>
At 31 August 2024	<u>21,596,530</u>	<u>369,037</u>	<u>57,838</u>	<u>22,023,405</u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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16. Fixed asset investments

	Unlisted investments £
Academy	
Cost or valuation	
Additions	1
	1
At 31 August 2025	1
 Net book value	
At 31 August 2025	1

17. Stocks

	Group 2025 £	<i>Group 2024 £</i>	Academy 2025 £	<i>Academy 2024 £</i>
Finished goods and goods for resale	7,696	8,296	7,696	8,296

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18. Debtors

	Group 2025 £	Group 2024 £	Academy 2025 £	Academy 2024 £
Due within one year				
Trade debtors	4,628	19,617	4,628	19,617
Prepayments and accrued income	467,499	304,441	418,980	300,809
Tax recoverable	24,081	29,186	19,688	21,717
	<u>496,208</u>	<u>353,244</u>	<u>443,296</u>	<u>342,143</u>

19. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Group 2025 £	Group 2024 £	Academy 2025 £	Academy 2024 £
Trade creditors	98,052	84,852	88,818	45,316
Amounts owed to group undertakings	-	-	-	35,666
Other taxation and social security	217,398	174,059	217,398	174,059
Other creditors	311,853	264,078	311,853	264,077
Accruals and deferred income	188,253	228,523	182,753	221,832
	<u>815,556</u>	<u>751,512</u>	<u>800,822</u>	<u>740,950</u>

20. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	Group 2025 £	Group 2024 £
Other creditors	<u>310,375</u>	<u>303,339</u>

Other creditors relates to a sinking fund to maintain the Sports Complex facilities.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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21. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 September 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2025 £
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds - all funds	1,278,648	724,928	(554,682)	-	-	1,448,894
Sports Complex Land & Building Reserve	1,880,727	-	(66,250)	-	-	1,814,477
	<u>3,159,375</u>	<u>724,928</u>	<u>(620,932)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,263,371</u>
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	1,122,058	10,178,746	(10,513,117)	-	(160,000)	627,687
Pupil Premium & LAC	-	637,176	(637,176)	-	-	-
SEN	-	646,871	(646,871)	-	-	-
Other ESFA/DfE income	125,962	1,445,623	(1,445,623)	-	-	125,962
Capital reserve	971,769	-	-	(271,875)	-	699,894
Pension reserve	(925,000)	-	-	-	925,000	-
	<u>1,294,789</u>	<u>12,908,416</u>	<u>(13,242,787)</u>	<u>(271,875)</u>	<u>765,000</u>	<u>1,453,543</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Class II Restricted Funds - all funds	22,034,439	-	(667,637)	-	-	21,366,802
Devolved Formula Capital (DFC)	-	27,946	(27,946)	271,875	-	271,875

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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21. Statement of funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 September 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2025 £
	22,034,439	27,946	(695,583)	271,875	-	21,638,677
Total Restricted funds	23,329,228	12,936,362	(13,938,370)	-	765,000	23,092,220
Total funds	26,488,603	13,661,290	(14,559,302)	-	765,000	26,355,591

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

Restricted General Funds are used specifically to provide educational resources for the pupils of the Academy. To better represent the specific uses of the funds, other restricted funds from the prior year have been reclassified as farm grants, maternity and paternity, and redundancy funds in the year.

Restricted Fixed Asset Funds provide for the Installation, maintenance and repair of the fixed assets of the Academy.

Unrestricted Funds are those other resources which maybe used to further the objective of the Academy. £310,375 (2024: £303,339) of the Unrestricted Fund relates to a sinking fund to maintain the Sports Complex facilities.

The Governors require a capital reserve to be created to fund future capital expenditure. These are met via transfers from GAG funding or funded via unrestricted reserves. The Academy holds assets to fund planned capital expenditure over the next three years.

ACADEMY

Restricted fund and restricted fixed asset funds for the Academy are the same as for the Group disclosed above. Unrestricted funds for the Academy are £1,803,114 (2024: £1,755,781). The unrestricted surplus for the Academy was £216,886 (2024: £175,466).

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

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

21. Statement of funds (continued)

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

	<i>Balance at 1 September 2023</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Transfers in/out</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses)</i>	<i>Balance at 31 August 2024</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds - all funds	1,561,358	733,804	(476,778)	(539,735)	-	1,278,649
Sports Complex Land & Building Reserve	1,946,977	-	(66,250)	-	-	1,880,727
	<u>3,508,335</u>	<u>733,804</u>	<u>(543,028)</u>	<u>(539,735)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,159,376</u>
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	978,396	10,276,383	(9,999,188)	(133,533)	-	1,122,058
Pupil Premium & LAC	-	649,049	(649,049)	-	-	-
Other ESFA/DfE income	125,963	1,270,564	(1,270,564)	-	-	125,963
Capital reserve	616,977	-	(173,270)	528,062	-	971,769
Pension reserve	(1,053,000)	164,000	-	-	(36,000)	(925,000)
	<u>668,336</u>	<u>12,359,996</u>	<u>(12,092,071)</u>	<u>394,529</u>	<u>(36,000)</u>	<u>1,294,790</u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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21. Statement of funds (continued)

Restricted fixed asset funds	<i>Balance at 1 September 2023</i> £	<i>Income</i> £	<i>Expenditure</i> £	<i>Transfers in/out</i> £	<i>Gains/ (Losses)</i> £	<i>Balance at 31 August 2024</i> £
Class II Restricted Funds - all funds	22,521,382	-	(632,150)	145,206	-	22,034,438
Devolved Formula Capital (DFC)	-	28,064	(28,064)	-	-	-
	<u>22,521,382</u>	<u>28,064</u>	<u>(660,214)</u>	<u>145,206</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,034,438</u>
Total Restricted funds	<u>23,189,718</u>	<u>12,388,060</u>	<u>(12,752,285)</u>	<u>539,735</u>	<u>(36,000)</u>	<u>23,329,228</u>
Total funds	<u><u>26,698,053</u></u>	<u><u>13,121,864</u></u>	<u><u>(13,295,313)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>(36,000)</u></u>	<u><u>26,488,604</u></u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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22. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Tangible fixed assets	1,846,683	-	21,638,677	23,485,360
Intangible fixed assets	6,207	-	-	6,207
Current assets	1,735,590	2,254,365	-	3,989,955
Creditors due within one year	(14,734)	(800,822)	-	(815,556)
Creditors due in more than one year	(310,375)	-	-	(310,375)
Total	<u>3,263,371</u>	<u>1,453,543</u>	<u>21,638,677</u>	<u>26,355,591</u>

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Tangible fixed assets	1,912,173	-	22,034,438	23,946,611
Intangible fixed assets	11,033	-	-	11,033
Current assets	1,200,503	3,310,307	-	4,510,810
Creditors due within one year	35,666	(787,178)	-	(751,512)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	(303,339)	-	(303,339)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(925,000)	-	(925,000)
Total	<u>3,159,376</u>	<u>1,294,790</u>	<u>22,034,438</u>	<u>26,488,604</u>

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

23. Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Net expenditure for the year (as per Statement of financial activities)	<u>(898,012)</u>	<u>(173,450)</u>
Adjustments for:		
Amortisation	4,826	4,826
Depreciation charges	762,737	725,704
Interest receivable	(138,341)	(158,350)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	(160,000)	(164,000)
Decrease/(increase) in stocks	600	(2,630)
Increase in debtors	(142,965)	(36,065)
Increase in creditors	71,081	42,770
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(27,946)	(28,064)
Rounding	(1)	-
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	<u><u>(528,021)</u></u>	<u><u>210,741</u></u>

24. Cash flows from investing activities

	Group 2025 £	Group 2024 £
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	138,341	158,350
Purchase of intangible assets	-	(3,452)
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(301,487)	(198,783)
Capital grants from DfE Group	27,946	28,064
Net cash used in investing activities	<u><u>(135,200)</u></u>	<u><u>(15,821)</u></u>

25. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	Group 2025 £	Group 2024 £
Cash in hand and at bank	3,486,051	4,149,270
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u><u>3,486,051</u></u>	<u><u>4,149,270</u></u>

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

26. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2024 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2025 £
Cash at bank and in hand	4,149,270	(663,219)	3,486,051
	<u>4,149,270</u>	<u>(663,219)</u>	<u>3,486,051</u>

27. Pension commitments

The Academy's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by Mercer. 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 £223,461 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2025 (2024 - £220,173) 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.

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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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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27. Pension commitments (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 2028.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £1,494,326 (2024 - £1,244,891).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website (<https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2019/04/teachers-pensions-valuation-report.aspx>).

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

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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27. Pension commitments (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2025 was £684,000 (2024 - £636,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £514,000 (2024 - £478,000) and employees' contributions totalled £170,000 (2024 - £158,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 17.3 per cent for employers and 5.5 - 12.5 per cent for employees.

As described in note the LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the Academy, who were the employees transferred as part of the conversion from the maintained school and new employees who were eligible to, and did, join the Scheme in the year. The obligation in respect of employees who transferred on conversion represents their cumulative service at both the predecessor school and the Academy at the balance sheet date.

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](https://www.gov.uk).

The Trust is required to state the following within the financial statements to comply with FRS102.

An entity shall recognise a pension 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 in the plan.

In addition to this guidance, consideration should be given to the following:

- The calculation of a surplus at 31st August as part of an annual actuarial valuation does not in itself give rise to a reduction in contributions;
- When the right to a refund of a surplus depends on the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within its control: the entity does not have an unconditional right and should not recognise an asset; and,
- Creation of an asset for accounting purposes by undertaking an actuarial valuation does not give rise to a legal right to the asset created.

Taking the above into consideration, the School has recognised no asset on the Balance Sheet. A restriction of the pension surplus of £1.674m shown on the face of the SOFA has been adjusted against actuarial gains to reduce the asset to £NIL.

Principal actuarial assumptions

Merseyside Pension Fund	2025	2024
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	4.1	4.1
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.7	2.7
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	6.2	5.0
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.6	2.6

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27. Pension commitments (continued)

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

	2025 Years	2024 Years
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	20.6	20.8
Females	23.3	23.4
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	21.7	22
Females	24.7	25.1

Sensitivity analysis

Merseyside Pension Fund	2025 £000	2024 £000
Discount rate +0.5%	2,363,000	(828,000)
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	1,510,000	(1,151,000)
CPI rate +0.1%	1,309,000	(1,392,000)
Pay growth +0.25%	1,591,000	(1,019,000)

Share of scheme assets

The Group's share of the assets in the scheme was:

	At 31 August 2025 £	At 31 August 2024 £
Equities	5,990,000	5,043,000
Government bonds	443,000	455,000
Other bonds	130,000	161,000
Property	1,198,000	1,071,000
Cash and other liquid assets	194,000	142,000
Other	2,839,000	2,607,000
Total market value of assets	10,794,000	9,479,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £837,000 (2024 - £726,000).

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27. Pension commitments (continued)

The amounts recognised in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities are as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Current service cost	443,000	389,000
Interest cost	31,000	40,000
Administrative expenses	14,000	13,000
Total amount recognised in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities	<u>488,000</u>	<u>442,000</u>

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

	2025 £	2024 £
At 1 September	10,404,000	9,348,000
Current service cost	443,000	389,000
Interest cost	517,000	501,000
Employee contributions	171,000	159,000
Actuarial (gains)/losses	(2,088,000)	300,000
Benefits paid	(327,000)	(293,000)
At 31 August	<u>9,120,000</u>	<u>10,404,000</u>

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

	2025 £	2024 £
At 1 September	9,479,000	8,295,000
Expected return on assets	486,000	461,000
Actuarial gains	351,000	264,000
Employer contributions	634,000	593,000
Employee contributions	171,000	159,000
Benefits paid	(327,000)	(293,000)
Derecognition of asset	(1,674,000)	-
At 31 August	<u>9,120,000</u>	<u>9,479,000</u>

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

28. 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 £NIL for the debts and liabilities contracted before he/she ceases to be a member.

29. Related party transactions

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

£12,520 (2024: £3,013) was received from Chester University where D. Cumberland, a governor, is the Deputy Dean in the Faculty of Education and Children Services. Income received was for the mentoring of associate teachers studying at the universities.

The Academy received £10,110 (2024: £4,965) from Liverpool Hope University where Mrs H Moore, Member, is a professional tutor. Income received was for mentoring of Associate Teachers studying at the university.

During the year, the Academy paid £1,690 (2024: £1,460) to Chester Diocesan Board of Education where L Bannon, the Assistant Headteacher, is a member of staff. Dr M Gilbertson was also a member of Chester Diocesan Board of Education.