

Pontefract Academies Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year ended 31 August 2025

Pontefract Academies Trust

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Pontefract Academies Trust

Reference and administrative details

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Members | L Maxwell-Smart (resigned 09/10/2025) J Gough M Brooke ^# K Cullinane (appointed 20/01/2025) | |
| Trustees (who are also Directors) | P Jones J Appleyard OBE (Chief Executive & Accounting Officer) ^* J Gough # D Wilkin (Chair of the Finance & Resources committee) ^ A Clarke (Chair of the Audit & Risk committee) # E Shepherd (resigned 11/10/2024) R Moore M Wormald (appointed 05/06/2025) # members of the Audit & Risk committee ^ members of the Finance & Resources committee | |
| Company Secretary | L Irving (resigned 27/01/2025) T Rowland (appointed 27/01/2025, resigned 10/03/2025) J Hardy (appointed 10/03/2025) | |
| Executive Leadership Team | Chief Executive Officer & Accounting Officer Chief Finance Officer Chief Operations Officer Director of School Improvement Director of School Improvement | J Appleyard OBE J Hardy P Hewitt T Fay (resigned 31/03/25) J Cross (resigned 18/05/25) |
| Headteachers | Carleton High School Carleton Park J&I School De Lacy Primary School Halfpenny Lane JI&IN School Larks Hill J&I School Orchard Head J I &N School The King's School The Rookeries, JI&N School Northfield Primary School | S Shariff M Winter J Parkinson I Shuttleworth K Adams R Grogan (resigned 31/08/25) M Evans D Dunn J Ayre |
| Company Name Principal Registered Office | Pontefract Academies Trust c/o The Barracks Business Centre, Wakefield Road, Pontefract WF8 4HH | |
| Company Registration Number | 08445158 (England & Wales) | |
| Independent Auditor | Kingswood Allotts Limited, Chartered Accountants, Registered Auditors, Sidings Court, Lakeside, Doncaster. DN4 5NU | |
| Internal Auditor | Wylie and Bisset, 168 Bath Street, Glasgow. G2 4TP | |
| Bankers | Lloyds, 27/28 Stodman Street, Newark, Notts NG24 1AW | |
| Solicitors | Browne Jacobson, 3rd Floor No.1 Spinningfields, 1 Hardman Square, Manchester, M3 3EB | |

Pontefract Academies Trust

Trustees' Report

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

The Trust operates 7 primary and 2 secondary schools in Pontefract & South Kirby, West Yorkshire which are:

| <u>School</u> | <u>Type</u> |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Carleton High School | Secondary |
| The King's School | Secondary |
| Carleton Park J&I School | Primary |
| De-Lacy Primary School | Primary |
| Halfpenny Lane JI & N School | Primary |
| Larks Hill J & I School | Primary |
| Northfield Primary School | Primary |
| Orchard Head JI & N School | Primary |
| The Rookeries JI & N School | Primary |

The numbers on roll in all the schools as at the October 2024 census was 4124.

Structure, governance, and management

Constitution

The multi academy trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the multi academy trust. The Trustees of Pontefract Academies Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company operates as Pontefract Academies Trust.

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 3.

Members' liability

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

Trustees' indemnities

In accordance with normal commercial practice the Pontefract Academies Trust has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Trust business. The insurance provides cover up to £10,000,000 on any one claim.

There have been no qualifying third-party indemnity provisions in place for the period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025.

Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees

The members of the Pontefract Academies Trust are responsible for the appointment of the trustees (who are also directors). Details of the members who served during the year and to the date these accounts are approved are included in the Reference and Administrative details on page 3.

Trustees' Report (continued)

The number of trustees shall not be less than three but (unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolutions) shall not be subject to any maximum.

Subject to Articles 48-49 and 53, the Academy Trust shall have the following Trustees:

- Up to 12 Trustees, appointed under Article 50.
- A minimum of 2 parent trustees elected or appointed under Articles 53-56 in the event that no local governing bodies are established under article 100a or if no provision is made for at least 2 parent local governors on each established local governing body pursuant to Article 101A.
- The Academy Trust may also have any co-opted trustee appointed under Article 58.
- The total number of Trustees, including the Chief Executive Officer if they choose to act as Trustee under Article 57 who are employees of the Academy Trust, shall not exceed one third of the total number of Trustees.

All trustees are appointed based upon the contribution they can make to the development and future success of Pontefract Academies Trust. The trustees are assessed for the personal qualities, specific skills and expertise they can provide in accordance with the most recent Trust Board self-evaluation. All trustees give of their time freely and receive no remuneration other than reasonable expenses, except those trustees who are employees of Pontefract Academies Trust (denoted by an * on page 3).

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

New trustees are inducted into the workings of the Pontefract Academies Trust by way of mentorship; each trustee is mentored in the areas of board policy and procedure as well as mission and ethos. The induction period allows new trustees to fully understand how the organisation operates and the various committees, which are used to assist in governance. Resources and training are made available for trustees who wish to develop a more detailed understanding of their role and the work of the board of trustees. Certain training, associated with elements of legal or regulatory compliance, are mandatory on appointment, at renewal of a term of office and refreshed at appropriate intervals during a trustee's term of office.

Organisational structure

Pontefract Academies Trust supports all its academies through an experienced board of trustees who are responsible for identifying and establishing strategies and policies and for ensuring that these are implemented throughout the organisation. To assist with this work, the trustees have established an Audit and Risk Committee and a separate Finance and Resources Committee, alongside an Education and Standards Committee and a Performance Management and Compensation Committee. The CEO is responsible for the internal organisation, management and control of schools. The CEO is responsible for implementing the strategic framework established by the board.

Each sub-committee has terms of reference for the operation of the committee and the extent of its remit. All committee terms of reference are reviewed and agreed on an annual basis by the board of trustees. In addition to the terms of reference, the board of trustees have a detailed scheme of delegation of authority for effective and efficient decision making for sub-committees and senior staff throughout Pontefract Academies Trust.

Pontefract Academies Trust also operates School Performance Review Boards (SPRBs) who report to the Pontefract Academies Trust Board of Trustees. The accountabilities and responsibilities of the SPRB's are determined by the scheme of delegation and the SPRB's cumulatively have their own terms of reference for its operation and extent of remit.

Governance at school level includes the nomination of link SPRB members who take responsibility for key areas of focus. Each SPRB is required to have a minimum of two parent members.

The board of trustees has engaged Wylie & Bisset to undertake an independent review of internal controls which is reported independently to the Audit and Risk Committee.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The pay arrangements for the Chief Executive Officer, other members of the Executive Team and Headteachers are determined by the Performance and Compensation Committee of the Trust Board. Cost of living pay awards for staff (headteachers) who are on the School Teachers Terms and Conditions leadership spine are awarded annually on 1 September. Incremental progression through the pay range is ratified by The Performance and Compensation Committee. For staff (Executive Leadership Team) who are on a spot point the cost-of-living increase is not automatically awarded. Trustees review the spot point annually and any increase in pay is based on successful performance management outcomes. In all instances the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook are followed.

Trade union facility time

Under the provisions of the Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2017, where an academy Trust has more than 49 full time equivalent employees throughout any 7 months within the reporting period, it must include information included in Schedule 2 of the Regulations.

Relevant union officials

| Number of employees who were relevant union official during relevant period | 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

| | |
|---|-------|
| Provide the total cost of facility time | £- |
| Provide the total pay bill | £- |
| Provide the percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time, calculated as: (total cost of facility time / total pay bill) x 100 | 0.00% |

Paid trade union activities

| | |
|--|-------|
| Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours calculated as: (total hours spent on paid trade union activities by relevant union officials during the relevant period / total paid facility time hours) x 100 | 0.00% |
|--|-------|

Trustees' Report (continued)

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

There are no relationships with related parties and any other charities, companies or organisations with which Pontefract Academies Trust cooperates in the pursuit of charitable activities.

Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)

Pontefract Academies Trust is committed to ensuring equality of opportunity for all who learn and work in the organisation. The Trust respects and values positively differences in race, gender, sexual orientation, ability, class and age. It strives vigorously to remove conditions which may place people at disadvantage, and we actively combat bigotry.

The Trust considers all application forms from disabled persons, bearing in mind the aptitudes of the individuals concerned. Where an existing employee becomes disabled, every effort is made to ensure that employment with the Trust continues. The Trust's policy is to provide training, career development and opportunities for promotion, which are as far as possible identical to those for other employees.

Engagement with suppliers, customers and others in a business relationship with the trust

Pontefract Academies Trust operates financial regulations and a scheme of financial delegation. Decision making follows the scheme of delegation which is overseen by the Trust Central team, has a procurement code of practice which defines the processes that the organisation must follow to tender for new or existing contracts. All contracts over £30,000 must be formally tendered. Decision making follows our scheme of financial delegation, which is overseen by our Risk and Audit Committee. We follow the guidelines set out in the Academies Trust Handbook, including ensuring that all trustees and local governors fully disclose any interests with details published on our website where relevant.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Objectives and activities

Objectives and aims

In accordance with the articles of association, the principal objects and activities of the Trust are to:

- advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing schools ("the Academies") offering a broad and balanced curriculum;
- develop the capacity and skills of the areas where the Company runs the Academies and the surrounding areas those inhabitants of who are socially and economically disadvantaged in such a way that they are better able to identify, and help meet, their needs and to participate more fully in society;
- relieving unemployment in areas where the Company runs the Academies and the surrounding areas for the benefit of the public in such ways as may be thought fit, including assistance in finding employment;
- advancing the health of the inhabitants of the areas where the Company runs the Academies; and
- providing recreational and leisure time facilities in the interests of social welfare for the inhabitants of the areas where the Company runs the Academies and the surrounding areas especially those who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, poverty or social and economic circumstances.

Objectives, strategies and activities

The Trust's objectives are set out in the Articles of Association. The mission of the Trust is running top-quality, high-achieving schools that give our children and young people the chance in life they deserve, with the vision being where every child and young person makes outstanding progress.

The Trust has a set of core values and guiding principles. These are a broad philosophy that encompasses and guides the Trust in its daily work, irrespective of changes in Trust goals, strategies or initiatives. They help create an organisational culture where everyone understands our "why" and supports a sense of oneness.

Mission and vision

The Pontefract Academies Trust's mission and vision continues to be:

- Mission - Running top-quality, high-achieving schools that give our children and young people the chance in life they deserve.
- Vision - Where every child and young person makes outstanding progress.

Guiding Principles

The guiding principles of the Trust are:

Achievement Without Excuses

We have an unwavering focus on achievement. This is paramount so that all our children and young people enjoy greater life chances. We take responsibility for ensuring that they succeed. We own our own performance and do not rest on our laurels or seek to blame others.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Our People Matter

We know that our people make a difference to the lives of our 3 - 16-year-old young people. We want to make our academies places where great teachers want to teach, lead and build a career. Investment in the recruitment, development and retention of the best people is a top priority.

We aim to provide professional work environments where our people have the support and the tools to do a great job and push our children and young people to scale new heights in a safe and secure environment.

Excellence as Standard

We set high standards. "Good enough" is simply not. We do not accept second best from our pupils or ourselves. The Trust aims to be a highly reliable school improvement organisation that is disciplined in its approach to improving performance. A Trust with clear plans and simple and precisely executed systems that not only develop and sustain excellent performance but never stifles individual flair.

Pupils Come First

Our schools are run for the benefit of children and young people, not the ease of adults. Their achievement comes first and staff in academies and the central trust office work to this end.

The Trust aims to keep low priority tasks away from front line teachers and leaders so that they can focus explicitly on our core business of teaching and learning.

Stronger as One

We take collective responsibility for each other and the results of all our children and young people. We enjoy sharing our success as a Trust while recognising the strengths of individuals and each school. To this end collective accountability is rooted in a "if one fails, we all fail" mentality.

As a family of schools, we collaborate with each other, challenge each other and share best practice. We do not let competition get in the way of our desire to get the best outcomes for all.

Strategic objectives

The strategic objectives for the 3-year strategic plan ending August 2025 are:

School Improvement, Student Opportunity, and Success

- **Teaching and learning:** The development of great teachers so all classrooms are routinely strong so that our pupils and young people thrive. In the spirit of continual improvement, we will nurture our community of best practice, discovering, sharing, and embedding what we learn. From ourselves and the wider sector.
- **Curriculum:** Further development and implementation of an all-through curriculum in its broadest sense, from the early years to 16. The provision of a rounded experience provides opportunities for pupils to develop academically, socially, and personally.
- **Inclusion:** Targeted and appropriate support is delivering ambition outcomes for pupils with SEND and our most vulnerable and disadvantaged pupils.
- **Quality assurance:** Continue to develop a rigorous and robust programme of quality assurance that helps to support staff, build expertise and capacity, and raise standards to deliver positive outcomes for pupils.

Our People Experience

- Proactive and inclusive attraction and recruitment of the right people for the right job roles and supporting effective succession and workforce planning to grow our own talent.

Trustees' Report (continued)

- Provide quality and value-added onboarding, inductions, and professional development opportunities ensuring that our colleagues have the best platform for starting and developing their career with us.
- Develop a pipeline of school and trust leaders through a trust wide leadership development programme. The ambition being to create highly visible, capable, positive, confident, and enthusiastic leaders, who exemplify our culture and model our guiding principles.
- Further develop a high-performance culture through refreshing our performance management framework, so that performance is supported and talent recognised in equal measure.
- Continue to nurture and develop a staff culture where morale is high, and staff have a sense of belonging. A focus on staff communication and engagement, health, and wellbeing, an inclusive reward and recognition mechanism and the exploration of hybrid and flexible working.

Financial and Operational Effectiveness

- GAG pooling and fair funding for all of our schools, creating capacity for professional development and school improvement. Resources will be used in line with strategic priorities and fairness supporting those schools in need of the greatest help.
- Continued use of integrated curriculum led financial planning to systematically analyse all aspects of the educational provision within our schools to ensure an appropriate balance in the allocation and expenditure of resources.
- Cumulative surplus to be at a DFE prescribed healthy level and within a target range of 5 - 10% of recurrent revenue income. This will allow flexibility for targeted investment in our schools.
- Continuously develop operating models in finance, procurement, HR, estates, ICT, and data management so that time and money is freed up to be invested in front line school improvement.
- Improved delivery of ICT through a five-year plan and managed service so front-line staff are well resourced and equipped to teach routinely well.
- Improved management of risk to be embedded to safeguard the Trust.

Growth, Governance, Partnerships and Community

- Engaging with local community groups.
- We expect our school leaders to develop a community engagement plan, work with their local community groups, support their families and work with other agencies to bring about positive improvements.
- Work and positively engage with our educational partners, the DFE, local authorities and teaching school hubs to drive up standards across the locality and region.
- Focus on strong governance that hardwires collaboration and accountability, intervenes where necessary, and builds trusting relationships within the communities we serve.
- Continue to scale up our model of school improvement to securely welcome schools into the Trust.

Trustees' Report (continued)

- Further develop leadership capacity to support well planned growth over an appropriate period of time and right scale.

Pontefract Academies Trust financial objectives are:

- to achieve an annual operating surplus;
- to ensure that resources were appropriately targeted;
- to generate sufficient levels of income to support and invest in the asset base.

Public benefit

In setting the Pontefract Academies Trust's objectives and planning its activities, the board of trustees has given careful consideration to the general guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission on their website at www.gov.uk/running-charity/managing-charity in exercising their powers or duties.

Pontefract Academies Trust is an equal opportunity employer and strives to give full and fair consideration to all applicants for employment, training and promotions, irrespective of disability, gender, race, colour or sexual orientation.

Strategic report

Key Performance Indicators - Educational Highlights, Performance and Outcomes

The last year has built on the progress made over the previous six years towards our vision that all children and young people make outstanding progress.

Educational highlights over the course of the last year include:

- Our trust primary schools remain consistently high performing and among the highest performing multi academy trusts for Key Stage 2 primary outcomes. The expected standard for the Trust was at 86% versus the national average of 62%. An eleven-year-old leaving a Pontefract Academies Trust school was 24 percentage points more likely to be on track in reading, writing and maths than the national average, 86% meeting the expected standard.
- Children from disadvantaged backgrounds in trust schools are now more likely to meet the expected standard than non-disadvantaged children nationally. The trust disadvantaged performance was 73%, 11 % higher than the national average for all pupils.
- Once again, our primary schools delivered Phonics Screening test results that were above the national average by ten percentage points.
- Our explicit focus on children getting off to the best start in life is exemplified through our focus on our youngest pupils and Early Years Foundation Stage, where 85% of children across the Trust have good levels of development.
- Our secondary schools delivered strong performance in the GCSE 2025 examination series. 72% of all Trust pupils achieved 4+ in English and Maths. Pupils achieving 5+ in English and Maths was 53%. The King's School in particular showed improvements that made it the highest performing school across Wakefield Local Authority at 4+ and 5+ attainment. Carleton High School had strong performance improving most individual subjects for 4+ attainment outcomes with all subjects except one being above national average.
- The performance of disadvantaged pupils at 4 + and 5+ was promising and improvement on the previous year. At 5+ English and Maths attainment, showed a 7% improvement.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Performance of our schools

Following four Ofsted inspections, the Trust now has four schools rated outstanding across the Board, and four good – two of which are deemed good improving.

- De Lacy Primary – Outstanding in all areas.
- Halfpenny Lane Junior, Infants and Nursery – Outstanding in all areas
- Carleton Park Junior, and Infants – Outstanding in all areas
- Larks Hill Junior and Infants – Outstanding in all areas.
- Orchard Head Junior, Infants and Nursery – Good (improving) (ungraded inspection)
- Carleton High School – Good (improving) (ungraded inspection)
- The King's School – Good
- The Rookeries Junior, Infants and Nursery – Good
- Northfield Primary School – Was requires improvement when the Trust took over the school as the sponsor in December 2023.

Secondary GCSE 2024/25 Outcomes

The following is a summary of the outcomes in the summer Key Stage 4 examination series for both secondary schools.

| GCSE Results 2025: Key Headline Attainment Measures | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--------------|---|----------------------|
| | % Students achieving both English and Maths at 5+ | % Students achieving both English and Maths at 4+ | Attainment 8 | % Disadvantaged students achieving both English and Maths | |
| | GCSE 2025 Result | | | 4+ English and Maths | 5+ English and Maths |
| Carleton High School | 46% | 68% | 47.54 | 45% | 25% |
| The King's School | 60% | 76% | 49.91 | 55% | 41% |
| National 2024 | 46% | 65% | 45.9 | | |
| Wakefield LA (Provisional 2025) | 47% | 66% | 45.2 | 46% | 26% |

Trustees' Report (continued)

Primary Outcomes 2024/25

| Phonics | 24/25 National % | Carleton Park | De Lacy | Halfpenny | Larks Hill | Northfield | Orchard Head | Rookeries | Trust |
|---------|------------------------|------------------|------------|-----------|---------------|------------|-----------------|-----------|-------|
| | 2024/25 Outcome % | | | | | | | | |
| | 81 | 90 | 91 | 96 | 97 | 91 | 91 | 89 | 92 |

| Key Stage 2 | | Carleton Park | De Lacy | Halfpenny Lane | Larks Hill | Northfield | Orchard Head | The Rookeries | Trust |
|--------------------------|----------|------------------|---------|-------------------|------------|------------|-----------------|------------------|---------|
| | 24/25 | 24/25 | 24/25 | 24/25 | 24/25 | 24/25 | 24/25 | 24/25 | 24/25 |
| | National | Outcome | Outcome | Outcome | Outcome | Outcome | Outcome | Outcome | Outcome |
| Age Related Expectations | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Reading | 75 | 93 | 82 | 97 | 100 | 88 | 96 | 73 | 90 |
| Writing | 72 | 90 | 80 | 95 | 97 | 85 | 89 | 75 | 87 |
| Mathematics | 74 | 97 | 82 | 95 | 97 | 83 | 96 | 77 | 90 |
| Combined | 62 | 87 | 80 | 93 | 97 | 83 | 89 | 73 | 86 |
| Combined PP | 46 | 71 | 71 | 88 | 75 | 59 | 80 | 65 | 73 |
| Greater Depth | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Reading | 28 | 30 | 36 | 72 | 67 | 54 | 46 | 66 | 53 |
| Writing | 13 | 33 | 23 | 36 | 57 | 31 | 39 | 36 | 36 |
| Mathematics | 24 | 37 | 52 | 52 | 70 | 48 | 70 | 41 | 53 |
| Combined | 8 | 23 | 18 | 26 | 53 | 27 | 26 | 30 | 29 |
| Combined PP | - | 0 | 8 | 20 | 25 | 6 | 10 | 18 | 12 |

Wider work of the Trust

The Trust has worked as part of the Department for Education (DFE) School Improvement Offer with primary schools in Bradford and Doncaster. This work has continued with RISE projects in schools in Doncaster and Leeds. The work allows our staff and leaders to have exposure to schools beyond the Trust and allows them to highlight best practice and support the system more broadly.

Workforce

The Trust approach to performance appraisal and development was launched in September 2024. Having been in place for twelve months, Everyday Development (EDD) has been a very positive part of the broader trust people strategy. External survey results indicated that:

- 74% of staff said EDD has had a positive impact on their professional development.
- 71% felt it provides more development opportunities compared to previous appraisal frameworks.
- 68% said it supported their career aspirations.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the board of trustees has a reasonable expectation that the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. However, the accounts are to be prepared on a basis other than going concern due to the pending transfer to Ark Schools (Multi-academy trust), which is expected to be completed on 01 September 2026. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the statement of accounting policies.

Promoting the success of the company

The Trust provides quality and value-added onboarding, inductions, and professional development opportunities ensuring that our colleagues have the best platform for starting and developing their career with us. In addition to this, employees have access to a health and wellbeing programme and an inclusive reward and recognition mechanism. The Trust is continuing to expand the benefits package available to its employees including further exploration of hybrid and flexible working.

We have a JCNC agreement in place, whereby, employees' interests are tabled.

The Trust uses a preferred supplier list for reactive maintenance following a benchmarking exercise with local suppliers. This brings efficiency and speed to reactive maintenance in schools and supports local businesses.

The Trust engages with local community groups, and we expect our school leaders to develop community engagement plans, work with their local community groups, support their families and work with other agencies to bring about positive improvements.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Financial review

Pontefract Academies Trust income is derived mainly from the Department for Education (DFE) in the form of revenue and capital grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from this and other sources during the year ended 31 August 2025, and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the statement of financial activities.

The Academies Trust also receives an element of funding for the acquisition and replacement of fixed assets. In accordance with the charities statement of recommended practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (SORP 2019), such grants are shown in the statement of financial activities as restricted incoming resources within the fixed asset fund. The restricted fixed assets fund is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets concerned.

Incoming resources during the year ended 31 August 2025 totalled £50 million (2024: £32 million) and were sufficient to cover resources expended and provided a surplus of £19 million (2024: £1.5 million) before transfers and other recognised gains and losses.

The net book value of tangible fixed assets was £49.5 million (2024: £31.7 million); movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 13 to the financial statements. The assets were exclusively for providing educational and associated support services to pupils and the community.

During the year ended 31 August 2025 the academy trust continued to allow all new staff the opportunity to join one of two pension schemes, Teachers Pension Scheme (TPS) or West Yorkshire Local Government Pension Scheme. Both pension funds are defined benefit schemes. A more detailed explanation of each pension scheme can be found in note 26.

It is possible to account for the assets and liabilities of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) as shown in the statement of financial activities and note 26. The West Yorkshire Local Government Pension Scheme was in an asset position of £7.6 million at 31 August 2025. This has been presented as a £nil balance in the financial statement in line with standard practice for pension schemes operating at a surplus (2024: £Nil balance).

Financial position

The Academy Trust held fund balances on 31 August 2025 of £52 million (2024: £33 million) comprising £49.8 million (2024: £31.7 million) of restricted fixed assets, restricted income funds of £1.4 million (2024: £0.5 million), unrestricted income fund balances of £1.3 million (2024: £1.2 million) and a pension reserve position of £nil (2024: £nil).

Trustees' Report (continued)

Reserves policy

Pontefract Academies Trust has established a reserves policy to protect the organisation and its charitable activities by providing a financial cushion against an unpredictable future. This restricts the impact of any risk (internal or external) upon continuing operations. The principal risk regarding continuing operations and the need for surpluses relate to the maintenance and replacement of the charity's substantial asset base and any possible delay in the receipt of grant funds. The reserves policy also provides the framework for future strategic planning and will assist decision-making.

The reserves policy establishes what is believed to be an appropriate target range for reserves held and will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Reserves (non-capital)

The Trust targets to hold a minimum of £1m in unrestricted and restricted reserves to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of funds and to provide a cushion to deal with unforeseen events. The Trust intends to use amounts above this to support significant capital investment priorities required to maintain safe, secure, and positive learning environments.

Cumulative reserves are currently higher than the minimum of £1m, largely as a result of savings during the pandemic combined with the additional DfE Core Schools Budget Grant income received in year. Whilst the Trust are content to hold the reserves prudently in the current economic climate the board of trustees have asked the executive leadership team to consider use of surplus funds in the long term to prepare for future investment priorities.

Reserves (capital)

The fixed asset fund represents:

- the net book value of fixed assets (£49.5m) which can only be realised through sale following any necessary approvals from the DfE.
- unspent capital grants which are already contractually committed to be spent in accordance with grant conditions.

Details of the restricted funds held by Pontefract Academies Trust are set out in note 17 of the attached financial statements.

Pension Reserve

The presence of a pension surplus or deficit does not constitute an immediate liability or realisable asset and does not mean the equivalent amount is already committed or no longer available.

The presence of a pension surplus or deficit will generally result in a cash flow effect for the trust in the form of an increase or decrease in employers' pension contributions over a period of years. The trust is confident that it can meet the required pension contributions from projected future income without significantly impacting its planned level of activities. The risks surrounding Pontefract Academies Trust pension liability have been taken into consideration when preparing the annual budgets therefore we continue to calculate our reserves without setting aside a designated reserve to cover the pension liability.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Investment policy

The Trust policy is to ensure that security takes precedence over revenue maximisation and that all investment decisions are in the best interests of the Trust. As such capital volatility will not be tolerated and assets will be invested to minimise risk. The Trust's assets will only be held in cash investments denominated in sterling for a maximum of 364 days. The Trust's cash balances will only be deposited with eligible UK banks or building societies assessed by their credit ratings.

Principal risks and uncertainties

Pontefract Academies Trust faces a broad spectrum of risks and uncertainties within its complex operating environment. The principal risks for 2024/25 are summarised below:

- The failure to explore opportunities for growth and the ramifications of a lack of growth and opportunity to contribute to the wider system. The Trust works to mitigate this through detailed evaluation of growth options and opportunities.
- Staffing and the shortage of teachers as a result of sector recruitment and retention issues. The Trust has developed a forward-thinking people strategy focussed on the attraction, recruitment and retention of staff. The Trust implements appropriate actions following staff surveys, monitors staff turnover and engages in longer term succession planning.
- Technological risk, in particular cyber security breaches are increasingly common in the sector. The Trust has worked to ensure that systems are protected and backed up through a series of activities. These include, regular reviews of information security practices, system and software updates, provision of security software, development and implementation of data and cyber policies. The Trust has in place disaster recovery plans and business continuity models as well as comprehensive training for staff.
- Funding uncertainties, in particular the changing demographics in terms of pupil rolls. Whilst Pontefract schools are in a current strong position in terms of overall school population, the Trust ensures there is ongoing review of pupil forecast numbers and updates financial plans accordingly, as well as working with communities and prospective parents to communicate the success of our schools to safeguard future numbers.
- The failure of our schools to not deliver outcomes for children and young people in line with or above national average performance. The Trust has well developed and secure quality assurance systems and processes that allows for regular monitoring of pupil progress data and targeted interventions to maximise outcomes.
- Safeguarding risks. The Trust has developed robust safeguarding practices, which includes comprehensive training for designated safeguarding leads, local governors, trustees and wider staff. The Trust engages in annual external safeguarding audits. The Director of Safeguarding and Inclusion ensures that regular reporting and trends are discussed at the appropriate sub committee of the Trust Board.

Pontefract Academies Trust has been proactive in identifying and managing these risks and uncertainties to mitigate their impact and ensures that these topics feature within the remits of the relevant Trust Board Committee, and that they are in turn reported on regularly to Trustees.

Risk management

The trustees have a fundamental role to play in the management of risk; trustees set the tone and influence the culture of risk management within the organisation. The board of trustees is responsible for determining whether Pontefract Academies Trust is risk-taking or risk averse, as a whole or on any relevant individual issue.

It is also responsible for determining which types of risk are acceptable and which are not and to set the standards and expectations for staff with respect to conduct and probity. The trustees will also determine the risk appetite and exposure for Pontefract Academies Trust. Any issues which affect the Trust's risk profile or exposure are to be approved by the board of trustees.

Trustees' Report (continued)

The trustees annually review the Trust's approach to risk management and approve changes or improvements to key elements of its processes and procedures. The trustees also seek to minimise the risk exposure by ensuring that appropriate policies and procedures exist to manage any such risk. Where risk cannot be eliminated or reduced to sufficiently acceptable levels the trustees have ensured that adequate insurance cover has been provided.

The system of internal control incorporates risk management. The system encompasses a number of elements that together facilitate an effective and efficient operating environment, enabling the Pontefract Academies Trust to respond to a variety of operational, financial and commercial risks. These elements include:

- **Policies and procedures**
Attached to significant risk are a series of policies that underpin the internal control process. The policies are set by the trustees and implemented by the Executive Leadership Team and headteachers across Pontefract Academies Trust.
- **Strategic planning and budgeting**
The strategic planning and budgeting processes are used to set objectives, agree action plans, and allocate resources. Progress towards meeting strategic objectives is monitored regularly by the board of trustees.
- **Risk management policy and procedures**
The risk management policy and procedures set out the framework for risk identification, agreed risk appetite, measurement of impact, probability of occurrence and mitigating control measures. This framework provides a consistent approach to risk management and monitoring across the Trust.

Fundraising

The Trust recognises its responsibilities under the Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016.

Fundraising from the public represents a minimal part of the income to the Trust and is restricted to:

- Events held on school premises such as school fairs or non-uniform days, in most cases these events will raise funds to support school spending, or to raise funds for other national charities which benefit children such as Children in Need and Comic Relief. In year the Trust has also raised funds for Macmillan Cancer Support and The Prince of Wales Hospice.
- Requests for voluntary donations to support school activities such as trips.

All income from fundraising is received and controlled in accordance with the financial regulations and financial scheme of delegation. Where funds are raised on behalf of other national charities, they are paid to the charities following the fundraising event. The Trust does not use any professional fundraisers.

Any complaints relating to the Trust fundraising activities are dealt with through the Trust complaints procedures. The Trust follows government guidance in relation to its policies on charging and remissions, this provides a framework of operation to ensure our disadvantaged pupils/students are not prevented from undertaking particular activities on the basis of ability to make a voluntary donation.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Streamlined energy & carbon reporting 2024/25

Energy Background

Pontefract Academies Trust is a multi academy trust with 9 academy schools. Heating is predominantly via mains gas. The trust has several members of staff who claim business mileage, and have recorded the number of miles travelled during the year. New school building at Carleton High that is carbon neutral. One school has a biomass boiler and BMS systems operate at some schools.

This methodology follows the [GHG Reporting Protocol](#) and uses the 2025 [Government emission conversion factors for greenhouse gas company reporting](#).

| Energy Source | Consumption | Scope | Emissions calculation |
|--|---|---------|---|
| Gas – total kWh (kilowatt-hours) used for the year | 3,037,755 kWh (gross CV (calorific value)) | Scope 1 | $3,037,755 \text{ kWh} \times 0.18296 \text{ (2025 Fuels - Natural Gas conversion factor gross CV to kg CO}_2\text{e)} / 1000$ = 555.788 tCO₂e |
| Electricity – total kWh used for the year | 1,569,030 kWh | Scope 2 | $1,569,030 \text{ kWh} \times 0.17700 \text{ (2025 UK Electricity conversion factor to kgCO}_2\text{e)} / 1000$ = 277.718 tCO₂e |
| | | Scope 3 | $1,569,030 \text{ kWh} \times 0.01853 \text{ (2025 Transmission and Distribution - UK electricity conversion factor to kgCO}_2\text{e)} / 1000$ = 29.074 tCO₂e |
| Owned Transport N/A – 0 miles in the year | 0 miles = 0 kWh | Scope 1 | 0 miles = 0.000 tCO₂e |
| Reimbursed Transport – total mileage reimbursed from staff claims = 11,509 miles | $11,509 \text{ miles} \times 1.10679 \text{ (2025 SECR kWh pass \& delivery vehs, average car conversion factor to kWh)}$ = 12,738 kWh | Scope 3 | $11,509 \text{ miles} \times 0.26915 \text{ (2025 Business Travel- land, average car conversion factor to kgCO}_2\text{e)} / 1000$ = 3.098 tCO₂e |
| Total | 4,619,523 kWh | | 865.678 tCO₂e |
| Intensity ratio | Emissions data (tCO ₂ e) compared with an appropriate business activity (pupil numbers as per Autumn census) | | $865.678 \text{ tCO}_2\text{e} / 4,253 \text{ pupils}$ = 0.204 tCO₂e per pupil |

Trustees' Report (continued)

Disclosure of Information

| UK Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data for the period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 | Current reporting year 2024/25 | Comparison reporting year 2023/24 (figures are for illustrative purposes) |
|---|--------------------------------|---|
| Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh) | 4,619,523 | 4,713,148 |
| Scope 1 emissions in metric tonnes CO ₂ e | | |
| Gas consumption | 555.788 | 589.536 |
| Owned transport | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Total Scope 1 | 555.788 | 589.536 |
| Scope 2 emissions in metric tonnes CO ₂ e | | |
| Purchased electricity | 277.718 | 307.229 |
| Scope 3 emissions in metric tonnes CO ₂ e | | |
| Business travel in employee-owned vehicles | 3.098 | 1.457 |
| Purchased electricity (transmission and distribution) | 29.074 | 27.154 |
| Total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO ₂ e | 865.678 | 925.376 |
| Intensity ratio Tonnes CO ₂ e per pupil | 0.204 | 0.224 |

Quantification and reporting methodology

We have followed the 2019 HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines. We have also used the GHG Reporting Protocol – Corporate Standard and have used the 2025 UK Government's Conversion Factors for Company Reporting.

Intensity measurement

The chosen intensity measurement ratio is total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e per pupil, the recommended ratio for the sector.

Measures taken to improve energy efficiency

| | |
|---|---|
| Carleton High School | New build, net zero carbon. Includes full solar electric generation |
| Carleton Park Junior & Infant School | Replacement ovens in main kitchen |
| De Lacy Primary School | None |
| Halfpenny Lane Junior & Infant School | Remaining LED upgrades (external areas), Emergency light failure upgrades LED |
| Larks Hill Junior & Infant School | Remaining LED upgrades |
| Northfield Primary School | Replacement water heater |
| Orchard Head Junior & Infant School | LED lighting upgrades (phase 1) |
| School House | None |
| The Kings School | Building Management System replacement, LED Upgrade to various areas, |
| The Rookeries Carleton Junior & Infant School | Remaining LED upgrades |

Trustees' Report (continued)

Annex – Site List

The following sites' data has been used in the SECR 2024/25 for Pontefract Academies Trust:

1. Carleton High School
2. Carleton Park Junior & Infant School
3. De Lacy Primary School
4. Halfpenny Lane Junior & Infant School
5. Larks Hill Junior & Infant School
6. Northfield Primary School
7. Orchard Head Junior & Infant School
8. School House
9. The Kings School
10. The Rookeries Carleton Junior & Infant School

Future Plans

The Trust has announced plans to merge with Ark Schools. If approved by the Department for Education, the plan is for the merger to take place on 1st September 2026. The Trust has for quite some time considered its growth and future plans. In doing so, the Trust recognised the alignment, shared ambition and complementary strengths of the organisation and Ark Schools. The plan is for Pontefract becoming the founding base of a new northern hub for Ark.

Both trusts are excited about the opportunity to come together to strengthen outcomes, improve efficiencies, invest in staff development, and ensure our schools are places where children can thrive.

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

The Trust does not hold any funds as custodian trustee on behalf of others at the date of signing.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Auditor

As far as the trustees are aware:

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

Kingswood Allotts Limited has expressed their willingness to continue in office as auditors to the Trust.

Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, approved by order of the members of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 15 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Phil Jones
Chair of Trustees

Governance Statement

Scope of Responsibility

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

As trustees, we have reviewed and taken account of the guidance in DfE's Governance Guide.

The board of trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive, 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 Pontefract Academies Trust 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.

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 accounting period. Attendance during the period at meetings of the board of trustees was as follows:

| Trustee | Meetings attended | Out of a possible |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| P Jones (chair) | 3 | 4 |
| J Appleyard OBE (CEO and accounting officer) | 4 | 4 |
| A Clarke (vice chair) | 4 | 4 |
| J Gough | 4 | 4 |
| R Moore | 4 | 4 |
| E Shepherd (resigned 11/10/2024) | 0 | 0 |
| D Wilkin | 4 | 4 |
| M Wormald (appointed 05/06/2025) | 1 | 1 |

The board of trustees' key responsibilities are to:

- set the strategic direction, mission, vision, core values and guiding principles
- hold executive leaders to account for educational performance of the Trust
- challenge and monitor the performance of the Trust
- ensure its decisions about levels of executive pay follow a robust evidence-based process and are reflective of the individual's role and responsibilities
- oversee and ensure financial performance
- exercise reasonable skill and care in carrying out their duties
- ensure that the Trust complies with charity and company law
- operate the Trust and its schools in accordance with the Funding Agreement signed with the Secretary of State

The board of trustees receives data in an agreed accessible format that enables comparison of the performance across the Trust and with external comparators. Management accounts are reviewed by the Accounting Officer and the Chair of the Trust board on a monthly basis and circulated to all Trust board members.

Governance Statement (continued)

Conflicts of interest

The Trust holds a central register of business interests. Trustees, SPRB members and senior employees complete and sign declarations each September and the Lead Governance Officer ensures that arrangements are in place for all declarations of interest/changes to declarations of interest are published and kept up to date on the schools and Trust website. Trustees and SPRB members have a standard agenda item at the beginning of each meeting of the Trust Board and Trust committee, to declare any actual or potential conflicts of interest. Employees engaged in decisions where conflicts of interest may arise must declare this to their Executive Director/Headteacher/Senior Leader at the earliest opportunity.

Governance reviews

An external review of governance was undertaken in July 2022, with all recommendations considered by Trustees. The Trust reviews its scheme of delegation, plus terms of reference for the Trust Board and all sub committees on an annual basis. Within this academic year the Trust Board has also reviewed School Performance Review Board (SPRB) structures to ensure these remain fit for purpose.

The **Finance and Resources Committee** is a sub-committee of the main board of trustees. Its purpose is to:

- consider policies and procedures to ensure that the Trust maintains proper accounts and related records.
- consider and monitor the Trust's financial plans to ensure they reflect the corporate and strategic plans of the Trust.
- consider policies and procedures to ensure that the Trust manages its employees in a fair and consistent manner and adheres to employment law and practice.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

| Trustee | Meetings attended | Out of a possible |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| D Wilkin (chair) | 4 | 4 |
| M K Brooke (co-opted, vice-chair) | 4 | 4 |
| J Appleyard OBE | 4 | 4 |

Financial Governance and Oversight

We recognise our obligation to act transparently and to use public funds with probity and responsibility.

The Finance and Resources Committee oversees the financial activities of the Trust and challenges the Executive Team on the financial management of the Trust and regularly reports to the full Board. The Trust utilises the same finance system across all schools within the Trust ensuring probity, transparency and accountability is paramount. The financial governance model of the academy includes an Accounting Officer, who is also the CEO of the Trust, and the Accounting Officer completes a declaration that is included in the statutory accounts as to the discharge of their duties.

The Finance and Resources Committee has a policy of ensuring value for money at all times and all schools have requirements for similar focus, including a comprehensive procurement protocol, where 3 quotes are required for purchases over £5,000.

The financial regulations were reviewed during the year.

The Finance and Resources committee has reviewed the annual budget proposals and management accounts during the period of account.

Governance Statement (continued)

The Finance and Resources committee has monitored key financial information during the year and considered the medium-term financial plans as part of the budget approval process. Management accounts are reviewed by the Accounting Officer and the Chair of the Trust board on a monthly basis. The management accounts are also reviewed by the Finance and Resources sub-committee and at all Trust Board Meetings throughout the meeting cycle.

Based on the above, the Trust Board believes that it has maintained effective oversight of funds.

The **Audit and Risk committee** is also a sub-committee of the main board of trustees. Its purpose is to:

- ensure that the internal control systems and the arrangements for risk management, control and governance processes of Pontefract Academies Trust are independently, objectively and actively monitored;
- reinforce the independence and effectiveness of the internal audit function, providing an independent medium of communication with the Pontefract Academies Trust auditors.

The Audit and Risk committee has reviewed and recommended the board of trustees the following policies during the period of account:

- Business Continuity Plans
- Complaints Policy
- Data Protection and Data Breach Recovery Policy
- Protection of biometric information of children in schools
- Risk Management Procedures and Framework
- Records Management Policy

The audit and risk committee considered the recommendations and monitored actions arising from the 2024-2025 independent reviews of:

- HR Recruitment Practices
- Procurement
- Environmental and Carbon Management

As the procurement and environmental audits took place during the summer term 2025, the recommendations and actions were not brought to the committee until October 2025.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

| Trustee | Meetings attended | Out of a possible |
|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| A Clarke (chair) | 4 | 4 |
| J Gough (vice-chair) | 4 | 4 |
| M K Brooke(co-opted) | 4 | 4 |

Pontefract Academies Trust also operates School Performance Review Boards (SPRBs) who report to the Pontefract Academies Trust Board of Trustees. The accountabilities and responsibilities the SPRB's are determined by the scheme of delegation:

- Academic performance
- Pupil behaviour and experience
- Community engagement

Governance Statement (continued)

Governance at school level includes the nomination of link SPRB members who take responsibility for key areas of focus. Each SPRB is required to have a minimum of two parent members.

The Trust reviews its Scheme of Delegation, Terms of Reference for the Trust Board and all sub-commitments on an annual basis.

Review of Value for Money

As accounting officer, the Chief Executive Officer has responsibility for ensuring that Pontefract Academies Trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The accounting officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes, as well as estates safety and management, achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

The accounting officer considers how the Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the board of trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where available. The accounting officer has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- Review of the School Improvement Model and leadership across the primary schools.
- Review of staffing models in primary school to ensure efficient and sustainable deployment; effective use of curriculum led financial planning in secondary schools to ensure efficient deployment of staff.

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 Academies Trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Pontefract Academies Trust 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 Pontefract Academies Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust'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 Pontefract Academies Trust's system of internal control is based on a framework of regular management information and administrative procedures including the segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability. In particular it includes:

Governance Statement (continued)

- delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and monthly financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the board of trustees;
- reviews by the Finance and Resources committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- identification and management of risks;
- a review of the progress made against each strategic objective through a detailed strategic performance report with agreed KPI's;
- monitoring of each school development plan through independent reporting from School Performance Review Boards to the trust board;
- reviews by the Audit and Risk Committee of Strategic and Operational Risk in line with the agreed Risk Management Framework.

The board of trustees has appointed Wylie & Bisset to undertake a programme of internal audit. This option has been chosen because this provides the best value for money option for the Trust and ensures that the programme of audits is carried out by an internal audit specialist.

The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial matters and other matters and performing a range of checks on the Trust's financial systems and other internal control systems. In particular, the checks carried out in the current period included testing of:

- Procurement procedures
- HR recruitment practices
- Energy and carbon management

The auditor reports to the board of trustees, through the Audit and Risk Committee on the operation of systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities.

The auditor has not identified any material control issues arising as a result of their work.

Review of effectiveness

As accounting officer, the Chief Executive Officer has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the period in question the review has been informed by the work of Wylie & Bisset and also the work of the Executive Leadership Team who also have key responsibilities for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework, alongside the Lead Governance Officer.

The accounting officer has been advised of areas for improvement and the Audit and Risk committee monitor action plans to ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place and that internal audit functions are supporting that aim.

Governance Statement (continued)

Conclusion

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 15 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Phil Jones
Chair of Trustees



Julian Appleyard OBE
Accounting Officer

Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance

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

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

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



Julian Appleyard OBE
Accounting Officer

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

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 DfE, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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

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

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 15 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Phil Jones
Chair of Trustees

Independent auditors report on the financial statements to the members of Pontefract Academies Trust

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Pontefract Academies Trust (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 August 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland*, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by the DfE.

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Emphasis of Matter - Conclusions relating to going concern

We draw attention to note 1 in the Financial Statements which explain that the operations of the school are expected to be transferred to another Multi-Academy Trust within 12 months of the date of this audit report. The trustees therefore do not consider it to be appropriate to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Accordingly, the financial statements have been prepared on a basis other than going concern as described in the note. Our opinion is not qualified in respect of the matter.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Independent auditors report on the financial statements to the members of Pontefract Academies Trust

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matter 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 Report of the Trustees for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report and Report of the Trustees.

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

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

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company 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 charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of Independent Auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit

Independent auditors report on the financial statements to the members of Pontefract Academies Trust

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 specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Enquiry of management and review of correspondence to identify any instances of non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls, including review of nominal ledger transactions and other adjustments for appropriateness and evaluating the rationale of any significant transactions outside the normal course of operations;
- Reviewing accounting estimates for bias, and reviewing management assumptions and judgements;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

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

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an 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 charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Mark Garrison BCom FCA DChA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Kingswood Allotts Limited, Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants
Sidings Court,
Lakeside,
Doncaster
DN4 5NU
Date:

Independent reporting Accountants report on regularity to Pontefract Academies Trust and the Secretary of State For Education

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 11 July 2022 and further to the requirements of the Department for Education (DfE) as included in the extant Framework and Guide for external Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether anything has come to our attention that would suggest, in all material respects, the expenditure disbursed and income received by Pontefract Academies Trust during the year 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 have not been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of the accounting officer of Pontefract Academies Trust and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Pontefract Academies Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 27 March 2013 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. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 have not been applied for the purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Approach

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw our conclusions includes:

- Enquiry of officers of the Academy Trust
- Review and testing of income and expenditure for compliance with the funding agreements, the Academy Trust Handbook and the academy trust's system of controls.
- Examination of relevant documents
- Review of the activities carried out by the Academy Trust
- Review of the delegated authorities set out in the Academy Trust Handbook
- Review of governance arrangements in accordance with the Academy Trust Handbook

Independent reporting Accountants report on regularity to Pontefract Academies Trust and the Secretary of State For Education

Conclusion

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

Reporting Accountant
Kingswood Allotts Limited
Chartered Accountants
Sidings Court,
Lakeside,
Doncaster.
DN4 5NU

**Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2025
(including Income and Expenditure Account)**

| | | | | Restricted | | |
|---|-------|--------------|------------|------------|---------|---------|
| | | Unrestricted | Restricted | Fixed | 2024/25 | 2023/24 |
| | Notes | Funds | Funds | Asset | Total | Total |
| | | £000 | £000 | Funds | £000 | £000 |
| Incoming and endowments from: | | | | | | |
| Donations and capital grants | 2 | - | 25 | 18,737 | 18,762 | 1,096 |
| Transfer from local authority on conversion | | - | - | - | - | 2,330 |
| Charitable activities: | | | | | | |
| Funding for the academy trust's educational operations | 3 | 772 | 29,288 | - | 30,060 | 27,649 |
| Other trading activities | 4 | 160 | 252 | - | 412 | 437 |
| Gain on disposal of fixed assets | | - | - | 361 | 361 | |
| Investments | 5 | 74 | - | - | 74 | 3 |
| Total | | 1,006 | 29,565 | 19,098 | 49,669 | 31,515 |
| Expenditure on: | | | | | | |
| Raising funds | 6 | 40 | 28 | - | 68 | 182 |
| Charitable activities: | | | | | | |
| Academy trust educational operations | 7 | 874 | 27,625 | 1,861 | 30,360 | 29,879 |
| Total | | 914 | 27,653 | 1,861 | 30,428 | 30,061 |
| Net income/(expenditure) | | 92 | 1,912 | 17,237 | 19,241 | 1,454 |
| Transfers between funds | 17 | - | (835) | 835 | - | - |
| Other recognised (losses)/gains | | | | | | |
| Actuarial (losses)/gains on defined benefit pension schemes | 26 | - | (179) | - | (179) | (948) |
| Net movement in funds | | 92 | 898 | 18,072 | 19,062 | 506 |
| Reconciliation of funds | | | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward at 1 September 2024 | 18 | 1,199 | 487 | 31,687 | 33,373 | 32,867 |
| Total funds carried forward at 31 August 2025 | | 1,291 | 1,385 | 49,759 | 52,435 | 33,373 |

The notes attached form part of these financial statements.

Pontefract Academies Trust

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2025

| | Notes | 2025 £000 | 2025 £000 | 2024 £000 | 2024 £000 |
|--|-------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| Fixed Assets | | | | | |
| Tangible assets | 13 | | 49,531 | | 31,687 |
| Current assets | | | | | |
| Debtors | 14 | 1,104 | | 1,145 | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 5,250 | | 3,299 | |
| | | <u>6,354</u> | | <u>4,444</u> | |
| Liabilities | | | | | |
| Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year | 15 | (3,450) | | (2,758) | |
| Net current assets | | | 2,904 | | 1,686 |
| Total assets less current liabilities | | | <u>52,435</u> | | <u>33,373</u> |
| Defined benefit pension scheme asset/(liability) | 26 | | - | | - |
| Total net assets | | | <u>52,435</u> | | <u>33,373</u> |
| Funds of the academy trust | | | | | |
| Restricted funds | | | | | |
| Fixed asset fund | 18 | 49,759 | | 31,687 | |
| Restricted income fund | 18 | 1,385 | | 487 | |
| Pension reserve | 18 | - | | - | |
| Total restricted funds | | | 51,144 | | 32,174 |
| Unrestricted income funds | 18 | | 1,291 | | 1,199 |
| Total funds | | | <u>52,435</u> | | <u>33,373</u> |

The financial statements on pages 36 to 62 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on and are signed on their behalf by:

Phil Jones
Chair of Trustees

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2025

| | Notes | 2025 £000 | 2024 £000 |
|--|-------|--------------|--------------|
| Cash flows from operating activities | | | |
| Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities | 21 | 2,241 | (786) |
| Cash flows from investing activities | 22 | (290) | 157 |
| Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year | | 1,951 | (629) |
| Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2024 | 23 | 3,299 | 3,928 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2025 | | 5,250 | 3,299 |

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2025

1. Statement of Accounting Policies

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

(a) Basis of preparation

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

Results for each academy and the Trust have been aggregated on a line by line basis and internal transactions excluded.

(b) Going Concern

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the company to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements.

It is expected within the next 12 months, from the date of the balance sheet, the operations of Pontefract Academies Trust will be transferred to Ark Schools. All assets and liabilities will be transferred over upon completion of the transfer and the trusts' activities will cease. The financial statements have therefore been prepared on a basis other than going concern, however no material adjustments are required as a result of ceasing to apply the going concern basis.

(c) Incoming Resources

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

■ Grants

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

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

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

■ 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.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

1. Statement of Accounting Policies (continued)

▪ Other Income

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

▪ Donated goods, facilities and services

Goods donated for resale are included at fair value, being the expected proceeds from sale less the expected costs of sale. If it is practical to assess the fair value at receipt, it is recognised in stock and 'income from other trading activities'. Upon sale, the value of 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'.

▪ Transfer on conversion

Where assets and liabilities are received by the academy trust on conversion to an academy, the transferred assets are measured at fair value and recognised in the balance sheet at the point when the risks and rewards of ownership pass to the academy trust. An equal amount of income is recognised as transfer on conversion within the donations and capital grant income to the net assets received.

▪ Donated fixed assets

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

(d) Expenditure

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

▪ Expenditure on raising funds

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

▪ Charitable activities

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

All resources expended are exclusive of recoverable VAT but include any irrecoverable VAT.

Redundancy and termination payments are recognised when there is an obligation to make the payment and the amount can be estimated reliably.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

1. Statement of Accounting Policies (continued)

(e) Tangible fixed assets

Assets costing £2,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the Balance Sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. Where there are specific conditions attached to the funding requiring the continued use of the asset, the related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities and carried forward in the Balance Sheet. Depreciation on the relevant assets is charged directly to the restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

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

| | |
|--|-----------|
| ■ Long leasehold land | 125 Years |
| ■ Freehold and long-term leasehold buildings | 50 Years |
| ■ Furniture and equipment | 10 Years |
| ■ Computer equipment | 4 Years |

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

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

(f) 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 academies trust anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

(g) Provisions

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

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

(h) Leased assets

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

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

1. Statement of Accounting Policies (continued)

(i) Financial instruments

The academy trust only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS102. The financial assets and financial liabilities of the academy trust and their measurement basis are as follows:

Financial assets – trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 14. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

Financial liabilities – trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in notes 15. 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.

(j) Taxation

The Academy Trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

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

(k) Pensions benefits

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the academies trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. TPS is an unfunded multi-employer scheme with no underlying assets to assign between employers. Consequently, the TPS is treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

The LGPS is a funded multi-employer scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the academy trust in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high-quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to net income / (expenditure) are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the year 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 gains and losses.

(l) Fund accounting

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

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

1. Statement of Accounting Policies (continued)

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

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

(m) Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

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

There is a large actuarial gain this year due to the effects of the significant change in the discount rate outweighing the effects of lower asset returns and increased inflation assumptions.

The detailed assumptions for this and the prior year are disclosed in note 26.

However, FRS 102 section 28.22 states a plan 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. In this case, it is highly unlikely that this would occur, therefore the surplus has not been recognised.

2. Donations and capital grants

| | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | 2024/25 Total | 2023/24 Total |
|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Capital grants | - | 18,737 | 18,737 | 1,076 |
| Other donations | - | 25 | 25 | 20 |
| | - | 18,762 | 18,762 | 1,096 |

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

3. Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations

| | Unrestricted Funds £000 | Restricted Funds £000 | 2024/25 Total £000 | 2023/24 Total £000 |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| DfE Grants | | | | |
| General Annual Grant (GAG) | - | 23,645 | 23,645 | 22,211 |
| | - | 23,645 | 23,645 | 22,211 |
| Other DfE Grants | | | | |
| Pupil Premium | - | 1,369 | 1,369 | 1,281 |
| Teachers Pension Grant | | 477 | 477 | 321 |
| DfE MSAG | - | - | - | 747 |
| Core Schools Budget Grant | - | 854 | 854 | - |
| Other DfE Group grants | - | 1,079 | 1,079 | 881 |
| | - | 3,779 | 3,779 | 3,230 |
| Other Government grants | | | | |
| Local Authority Grants – Early Years | - | 491 | 491 | 423 |
| Local Authority Grants – High-Cost Pupils | - | 705 | 705 | 535 |
| Local Authority Grants – Other | - | 88 | 88 | 105 |
| | - | 1,284 | 1,284 | 1,063 |
| Other Income From the Academy Trust's Educational Operations | | | | |
| Catering Income | 772 | - | 772 | 694 |
| Trip Income | - | 580 | 580 | 451 |
| | 772 | 580 | 1,352 | 1,145 |
| Total | 772 | 29,288 | 30,060 | 27,649 |

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

4. Other trading activities

| | Unrestricted Funds £'000 | Restricted Funds £'000 | 2024/25 Total £'000 | 2023/24 Total £'000 |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Music services | 40 | - | 40 | 32 |
| Educational sales | - | 199 | 199 | 138 |
| Services of staff | - | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Insurance receipts | 102 | - | 102 | 80 |
| Hire of facilities | 18 | - | 18 | 21 |
| Other income | - | 52 | 52 | 165 |
| | 160 | 252 | 412 | 437 |

5. Investment income

| | Unrestricted Funds £000 | Restricted Funds £000 | 2024/25 Total £000 | 2023/24 Total £000 |
|---------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Bank interest | 74 | - | 74 | 3 |

6. Expenditure

| | Non - Pay Expenditure | | | 2024/25 | 2023/24 |
|---|-----------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Staff Costs £000 | Premises £000 | Other Costs £000 | Total £000 | Total £000 |
| Expenditure on raising funds: | | | | | |
| Direct costs | - | - | 68 | 68 | 182 |
| Allocated support costs | - | - | - | - | - |
| Academy trust's educational operations: | | | | | |
| Direct costs | 18,978 | 894 | 3,349 | 23,221 | 22,333 |
| Allocated support costs | 3,207 | 1,417 | 2,515 | 7,139 | 7,546 |
| | 22,185 | 2,311 | 5,932 | 30,428 | 30,061 |

| | 2024/25 £000 | 2023/24 £000 |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes: | | |
| Operating lease rentals | 30 | 36 |
| Depreciation | 1,618 | 1,599 |
| (Gain)/loss on disposal of fixed assets | (361) | - |
| Fees payable to the auditor for: | | |
| - audit | 18 | 18 |
| - other services | 5 | 5 |
| Fees payable to the internal auditor | 8 | 6 |

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

7. Charitable Activities

| | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | 2024/25 Total | 2023/24 Total |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Direct costs - educational operations | 102 | 23,119 | 23,221 | 22,333 |
| Support costs - educational operations | 772 | 6,367 | 7,139 | 7,546 |
| | 874 | 29,486 | 30,360 | 29,879 |

| | 2024/25 Total | 2023/24 Total |
|----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | £000 | £000 |
| Analysis of support costs | | |
| Support staff costs | 3,207 | 3,310 |
| Technology costs | 366 | 395 |
| Premises costs | 2,053 | 2,868 |
| Legal costs – other | (1) | 32 |
| Other support costs | 728 | 902 |
| Governance costs | 14 | 39 |
| | 7,139 | 7,546 |

8. Staff Costs

(a) Staff costs and employee benefits

Staff costs during the period were:

| | 2024/25 Total | 2023/24 Total |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| | £000 | £000 |
| Wages and Salaries | 16,196 | 15,450 |
| Social Security Costs | 1,708 | 1,451 |
| Operating costs of defined benefit pension schemes | 3,664 | 3,318 |
| | 21,568 | 20,219 |
| Supply staff costs | 583 | 754 |
| Staff restructuring costs | 34 | 16 |
| | 22,185 | 20,989 |
| Staff restructuring costs comprise: | | |
| Redundancy payments | 34 | - |
| Severance payments | - | 16 |
| | 34 | 16 |

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

(a) Severance payments

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

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| £0 - £25,000 | 3 |
| £25,001 - £50,000 | - |
| £50,001 - £100,000 | - |
| £90,001 - £100,000 | - |
| £100,001 - £150,000 | - |
| £150,001+ | - |

(b) Special staff severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are special severance payments totalling £nil (2024: £16,436).

(c) Staff numbers

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

| | 2024/25 | 2023/24 |
|----------------------------------|------------|------------|
| | No. | No. |
| Teachers and educational support | 354 | 345 |
| Administration and other support | 150 | 145 |
| Management | 45 | 46 |
| | 549 | 536 |

(d) Higher paid staff

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

| | 2024/25 | 2023/24 |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | No. | No. |
| £60,001 - £70,000 | 7 | 16 |
| £70,001 - £80,000 | 13 | 9 |
| £80,001 - £90,000 | 5 | 2 |
| £90,001 - £100,000 | 4 | - |
| £110,001 - £120,000 | 1 | 1 |
| £120,001 - £130,000 | - | 1 |
| £130,001 - £140,000 | - | - |
| £150,001 - £160,000 | - | - |
| £160,001 - £170,000 | - | - |
| £170,001 - £180,000 | - | - |
| £180,001 - £190,000 | 1 | 1 |
| | 31 | 30 |

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

(e) Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise a trustee, the senior management team and Headteachers as listed on page 3. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust were £1,731,755 (2024: £1,453,444).

9. Central Services

The academy trust has provided the following central services to its academies during the period of account:

- Human resources
- Financial services, assurances and information systems
- Education welfare and education psychology services
- Teacher/pupil performance tracking software
- Health & safety advice and support
- Legal advice and support

Following a move to GAG pooling no central charges arose for these services.

10. Related party transactions – Trustees' remuneration & expenses

One trustee, who is also the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the academy trust has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from employment with the academy trust. The CEO only receives remuneration in respect of services he provides undertaking the role of CEO under his contract of employment.

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

J Appleyard OBE (staff and trustee)

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Remuneration | £185,001 - £190,000 | (2024: £180,001 - £185,000) |
| Employer's pension contributions | £50,001 - £55,000 | (2024: £45,001 - £50,000) |

During the year ended 31 August 2025, travel and subsistence expenses totalling £433 were reimbursed to 1 trustee (2024: £0).

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out in note 27.

11. Trustees' and officers' insurance

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

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

12. Comparatives for the Statement of Financial Activities

| | | | | Restricted | | |
|---|-------|--------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | Unrestricted | Restricted | Fixed | 2023/24 | 2022/23 |
| | Notes | Funds | General | Asset | Total | Total |
| | | £000 | Funds | Funds | £000 | £000 |
| | | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Incoming and endowments from: | | | | | | |
| Donations and capital grants | 2 | - | 20 | 1,076 | 1,096 | 1,247 |
| Transfer from local authority on conversion | | 32 | 16 | 2,282 | 2,330 | - |
| Charitable activities: | | | | | | |
| Funding for the academy trust's educational operations | 3 | 694 | 26,955 | - | 27,649 | 24,409 |
| Other trading activities | 4 | 133 | 304 | - | 437 | 276 |
| Investments | 5 | 3 | - | - | 3 | - |
| Total | | 862 | 27,295 | 3,358 | 31,515 | 25,932 |
| Expenditure on: | | | | | | |
| Raising funds | 6 | 54 | 128 | - | 182 | 183 |
| Charitable activities: | | | | | | |
| Academy trust educational operations | 7 | 777 | 27,142 | 1,960 | 29,879 | 26,114 |
| Total | | 831 | 27,270 | 1,960 | 30,061 | 26,297 |
| Net income/(expenditure) | | 31 | 25 | 1,398 | 1,454 | (365) |
| Transfers between funds | 18 | - | (192) | 192 | - | - |
| Other recognised (losses)/gains | | | | | | |
| Actuarial (losses)/gains on defined benefit pension schemes | 29 | - | (948) | - | (948) | 1,228 |
| Net movement in funds | | 31 | (1,115) | 1,590 | 506 | 863 |
| Reconciliation of funds | | | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward at 1 September 2023 | 18 | 1,168 | 1,602 | 30,097 | 32,867 | 32,004 |
| Total Funds carried forward at 31 August 2024 | | 1,199 | 487 | 31,687 | 33,373 | 32,867 |

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

13. Tangible Fixed Assets

| | Freehold Land and Buildings £000 | Long-term Leasehold Land & Buildings £000 | Assets Under Construction £000 | Furniture and Equipment £000 | Computer Equipment £000 | Total £000 |
|------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Cost | | | | | | |
| At 1 September 2024 | 28,587 | 4,528 | - | 7,910 | 3,133 | 44,158 |
| Additions | 17,656 | - | 984 | 566 | 256 | 19,462 |
| At 31 August 2025 | 46,243 | 4,528 | 984 | 8,476 | 3,389 | 63,620 |
| Depreciation | | | | | | |
| At 1 September 2024 | 5,639 | 515 | - | 3,849 | 2,468 | 12,471 |
| Charge for the year | 543 | 108 | - | 654 | 313 | 1,618 |
| At 31 August 2025 | 6,182 | 623 | - | 4,503 | 2,781 | 14,089 |
| Net Book Values | | | | | | |
| At 1 September 2024 | 22,948 | 4,013 | - | 4,061 | 665 | 31,687 |
| At 31 August 2025 | 40,061 | 3,905 | 984 | 3,973 | 608 | 49,531 |

The trust's transactions relating to land and buildings included:

- the acquisition of a new building at Carleton High School with a fair value of £17.6million, funded directly by the DfE via the School Rebuilding programme.

14. Debtors

| | 2025 £'000 | 2024 £'000 |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Trade debtors | 6 | 18 |
| VAT recoverable | 378 | 178 |
| Other debtors | 7 | 2 |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 713 | 947 |
| | 1,104 | 1,145 |

15. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

| | 2025 £'000 | 2024 £'000 |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Trade creditors | 1,641 | 394 |
| Other taxation and social security | 416 | 338 |
| Other creditors | 353 | 321 |
| Accruals and deferred income | 1,040 | 1,705 |
| | 3,450 | 2,758 |

16. Deferred income

| | 2025 £'000 | 2024 £'000 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Deferred income at 1 September 2024 | 312 | 231 |
| Resources deferred in year | 352 | 312 |
| Amounts released from previous years | (312) | (231) |
| Deferred income at 31 August 2025 | 352 | 312 |

At the balance sheet date, the academy trust was holding funds of £182,000 received in advance for funds received from the DfE relating to Universal Infant Free School meals; £68,000 received from the DfE relating to the wrap around grant and other funds of £102,000 received in advance for catering and school trips booked for the academic year commencing September 2025.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

17. Funds

| | Balance at 1 September 2024 £000 | Incoming Resources £000 | Resources Expended £000 | Gains, Losses and Transfers £000 | Balance at 31 August 2025 £000 |
|---|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|
| Restricted general funds | | | | | |
| General Annual Grant (GAG) | 487 | 23,645 | (21,912) | (835) | 1,385 |
| Pupil Premium | - | 1,369 | (1,369) | - | - |
| Teachers Pension Grant | - | 477 | (477) | - | - |
| Core School Budget Grant | - | 854 | (854) | - | - |
| Other DfE Group Grants | - | 1,079 | (1,079) | - | - |
| Local Authority Grants - Early Years | - | 491 | (491) | - | - |
| Local Authority Grants - High Cost Pupils | - | 705 | (705) | - | - |
| Local Authority Grants – Other | - | 88 | (88) | - | - |
| Pension Surplus | - | - | 179 | (179) | - |
| Other restricted donations | - | 25 | (25) | - | - |
| Other Income | - | 580 | (580) | - | - |
| Other trading activities | - | 252 | (252) | - | - |
| | 487 | 29,565 | (27,653) | (1,014) | 1,385 |
| Restricted fixed asset funds | | | | | |
| Transfer on conversion | 20,122 | - | - | - | 20,122 |
| Donated fixed assets | 4,140 | - | - | - | 4,140 |
| DfE Group capital grants | 5,172 | 19,098 | (1,861) | - | 22,409 |
| Insurance Receipts | 33 | - | - | - | 33 |
| Capital expenditure from GAG | 2,220 | - | - | 835 | 3,055 |
| | 31,687 | 19,098 | (1,861) | 835 | 49,759 |
| Total restricted funds | 32,174 | 48,663 | (29,514) | (179) | 51,144 |
| Unrestricted funds | | | | | |
| Unrestricted funds | 1,199 | 1,006 | (914) | - | 1,291 |
| Total unrestricted funds | 1,199 | 1,006 | (914) | - | 1,291 |
| Total funds | 33,373 | 49,669 | (30,428) | (179) | 52,435 |

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

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

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

The restricted fixed assets funds represent the net book values of donated fixed assets and assets purchased from the DfE and other government grants, which must be held for the continuing use of the academy, along with unspent grants for capital purchases.

The balance on restricted general funds represents the balance of unspent grants and other revenue to be spent in future periods.

The balance on unrestricted funds represents the unspent surplus from the local authority on conversion and unspent surpluses from other unrestricted activities.

The General Annual Grant (GAG) is restricted to spending in accordance with the conditions of the Trust's Master Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education. This is not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG which can be carried forward at 31 August 2025 to future periods.

The Pupil Premium is restricted to activities which reduce the attainment gap between pupils who are disadvantaged and those who are not.

DfE Group capital grants include devolved formula grant funds received towards capital investment in Academies above £2,000, and school capital allocation.

The transfer into the restricted fixed asset funds represents fixed assets purchased out of GAG funding.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

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

17. Funds

| | Balance at 1 September 2023 £000 | Incoming Resources £000 | Resources Expended £000 | Gains, Losses and Transfers £000 | Balance at 31 August 2024 £000 |
|---|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|
| Restricted general funds | | | | | |
| General Annual Grant (GAG) | 795 | 22,211 | (22,327) | (192) | 487 |
| Pupil Premium | - | 1,281 | (1,281) | - | - |
| PE Sport Grant | - | 118 | (118) | - | - |
| UIFSM | - | 244 | (244) | - | - |
| Teachers Pay & Pension Grant | - | 591 | (591) | - | - |
| MSAG | - | 747 | (747) | - | - |
| Catch-up Premium/Recovery Pupil Premium | - | 228 | (228) | - | - |
| National Tutoring Programme | - | 13 | (13) | - | - |
| Mentor Backfill Grant | - | 3 | (3) | - | - |
| Other DfE group grants | - | 5 | (5) | - | - |
| Local Authority Grants – Other | - | 89 | (89) | - | - |
| Local Authority Grants – Early Years | - | 423 | (423) | - | - |
| Local Authority Grants – High Cost Pupils | - | 535 | (535) | - | - |
| Local Authority Grants – Other | - | 16 | (16) | - | - |
| Pension Surplus | 807 | 16 | 125 | (948) | - |
| Other restricted donations | - | 20 | (20) | - | - |
| Other Income | - | 451 | (451) | - | - |
| Other trading activities | - | 304 | (304) | - | - |
| | 1,602 | 27,295 | (27,270) | (1,140) | 487 |
| Restricted fixed asset funds | | | | | |
| Transfer on conversion | 17,840 | 2,282 | - | - | 20,122 |
| Donated fixed assets | 4,140 | - | - | - | 4,140 |
| DfE Group capital grants | 6,056 | 1,076 | (1,960) | - | 5,172 |
| Insurance Receipts | 33 | - | - | - | 33 |
| Capital expenditure from GAG | 2,028 | - | - | 192 | 2,220 |
| | 30,097 | 3,358 | (1,960) | 192 | 31,687 |
| Total restricted funds | 31,699 | 30,653 | (29,230) | (948) | 32,174 |
| Unrestricted funds | | | | | |
| Unrestricted funds | 1,168 | 862 | (831) | - | 1,199 |
| Total unrestricted funds | 1,168 | 862 | (831) | - | 1,199 |
| Total funds | 32,867 | 31,515 | (30,061) | (948) | 33,373 |

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

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

Analysis of academies by cost

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

| | Teaching and Educational Support Staff Costs £000 | Other Support Staff Costs £000 | Educational Supplies £000 | Other Costs (excluding Depreciation) £000 | Total 2024/25 £000 | Total 2023/24 £000 |
|----------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Carleton High School | 4,670 | 630 | 567 | 1,052 | 6,919 | 6,622 |
| Carleton Park J&I School | 833 | 145 | 66 | 172 | 1,216 | 1,250 |
| De Lacy Primary School | 1,491 | 188 | 76 | 309 | 2,064 | 2,161 |
| Halfpenny Lane JI&N School | 1,637 | 235 | 104 | 306 | 2,282 | 2,232 |
| The King's School | 4,593 | 672 | 466 | 1,075 | 6,806 | 6,425 |
| Larks Hill J&I School | 774 | 141 | 54 | 167 | 1,136 | 1,194 |
| Northfield Primary School | 1,435 | 190 | 142 | 255 | 2,022 | 1,571 |
| Orchard Head JI&N School | 1,271 | 196 | 87 | 251 | 1,805 | 1,957 |
| The Rookeries JI&N School | 1,362 | 161 | 166 | 268 | 1,957 | 1,894 |
| Central Services | 910 | 652 | 8 | 1,033 | 2,602 | 3,155 |
| Academy Trust | 18,976 | 3,210 | 1,736 | 4,888 | 28,810 | 28,461 |

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

18. Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2025 were represented by:

| | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted General Funds | Restricted Fixed Asset Funds | Total Funds |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | 2025 £000 |
| Tangible fixed assets | - | - | 49,531 | 49,531 |
| Current assets | 1,441 | 3,318 | 1,595 | 6,354 |
| Current liabilities | (150) | (1,933) | (1,367) | (3,450) |
| Non-current liabilities | - | - | - | - |
| Pension scheme asset | - | - | - | - |
| Total net assets | 1,291 | 1,385 | 49,759 | 52,435 |

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

| | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted General Funds | Restricted Fixed Asset Funds | Total Funds |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | 2024 £000 |
| Tangible fixed assets | - | - | 31,687 | 31,687 |
| Current assets | 1,400 | 2,249 | 795 | 4,444 |
| Current liabilities | (201) | (1,762) | (795) | (2,758) |
| Non-current liabilities | - | - | - | - |
| Pension scheme asset | - | - | - | - |
| Total net assets | 1,199 | 487 | 31,687 | 33,373 |

19. Capital commitments

| | 2025 £'000 | 2024 £'000 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Contracted for, but not provided in the financial statements | - | - |

20. Commitments under operating leases

Operating leases

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

| | 2025 £'000 | 2024 £'000 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Expiring within one year | 29 | 29 |
| Expiring within two and five years inclusive | 34 | 63 |
| | 63 | 92 |

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

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

| | 2024/25 | 2023/24 |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 |
| Net income/(expenditure) | 19,241 | 1,454 |
| Depreciation (note 13) | 1,618 | 1,599 |
| Proceeds from sale of tangible fixed assets | (361) | - |
| Donated fixed assets | - | (2,250) |
| DfE school rebuilding programme | (17,634) | - |
| Capital grants from DfE and other capital income | (1,103) | (1,076) |
| Interest receivable (note 5) | (74) | (3) |
| Defined benefit pension scheme surplus inherited | - | (16) |
| Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable (note 26) | (37) | (59) |
| Defined benefit pension scheme finance income (note 26) | (142) | (66) |
| (Increase)/decrease in debtors | 41 | (3) |
| Increase/(decrease) in creditors | 692 | (366) |
| Net cash provided by/(used in) Operating Activities | 2,241 | (786) |

22. Cash flows from investing activities

| | 2024/25 | 2023/24 |
|--|--------------|------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 |
| Interest received | 74 | 3 |
| Proceeds from sale of tangible fixed assets | 361 | - |
| Purchase of tangible fixed assets | (1,828) | (922) |
| Capital grants from DfE Group | 1,103 | 1,076 |
| Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities | (290) | 157 |

23. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

| | 2024/25 | 2023/24 |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|
| | £'000 | £'000 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 5,250 | 3,299 |

24. Analysis of changes in net debt

| | At 1 September 2024 | Cash flows | At 31 August 2025 |
|--------------|---------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Cash | 3,299 | 1,951 | 5,250 |
| Total | 3,299 | 1,951 | 5,250 |

Major non-cash transactions

Building work with a fair value of £17.6m was paid directly by the DfE during the year.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

25. Members' liability

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

26. Pension and similar obligations

The academy trust's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff which is managed by West Yorkshire Pension Fund. Both are multi-employer defined-benefit schemes.

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

There were outstanding contributions at the end of the financial year of £312,000 (2024: £304,000) in relation to the Teacher's Pension Scheme and no outstanding contributions at the end of the year in relation to the Local Government Pension Scheme (2024: £nil).

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

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

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to ensure scheme costs are recognised and managed appropriately and the review specifies the level of future contributions.

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.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

- Total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £262,000 million and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222,200 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £39,800 million

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

The pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £3.785 million of which employer's contributions totalled £2.838 million (2024: £2.484 million) and employees' contributions totalled £0.947 million (2024: £0.911 million).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the [Teachers' Pensions website](#).

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the period ended 31 August 2025 was £1.377 million (2024: £1.302 million), of which employer's contributions totaled £1.028 million (2024: £0.970 million) and employees' contributions totalled £0.349 million (2024: £0.332 million). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 17 per cent for employers and a varied scale rate depending on salary bands of 5.5% to 12.5% for employees.

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

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

Principal actuarial assumptions

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|--------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Rate of general increase in salaries | 3.75% | 3.75% |
| Pension Increases | 2.50% | 2.50% |
| Pension accounts revaluation rate | 2.50% | 2.50% |
| Discount Rate for scheme liabilities | 6.00% | 4.90% |
| CPI Inflation | 2.50% | 2.50% |

Sensitivity analysis

The approximate impact of changing the key assumptions on the present value of the funded defined benefit obligation as at 31 August 2025 and the projected service cost for the period ending 31 August 2026 is set out below.

In each case, only the assumption mentioned is altered; all other assumptions remain the same as summarised in the principal actuarial assumptions.

Sensitivity of unfunded benefits (where applicable) are not included on materiality grounds.

Discount rate assumption

| Adjustment to discount rate | +0.1% p.a. | Base figure | -0.1% p.a. |
|--|------------|-------------|------------|
| Present value of total obligation (£M) | 19.873 | 20.237 | 20.622 |
| % change in present value of total obligation | -1.8% | | 1.9% |
| Projected service cost (£M) | 0.628 | 0.660 | 0.693 |
| Approximate % change in projected service cost | -4.9% | | 5.0% |

Rate of general increase in salaries

| Adjustment to salary increase rate | +0.1% p.a. | Base figure | -0.1% p.a. |
|--|------------|-------------|------------|
| Present value of total obligation (£M) | 20.277 | 20.237 | 20.197 |
| % change in present value of total obligation | 0.2% | | -0.2% |
| Projected service cost (£M) | 0.660 | 0.660 | 0.660 |
| Approximate % change in projected service cost | 0.0% | | 0.0% |

Rate of increase to pensions and rate of revaluation of pension accounts

| Adjustment to pension increase rate | +0.1% p.a. | Base figure | -0.1% p.a. |
|--|------------|-------------|------------|
| Present value of total obligation (£M) | 20.581 | 20.237 | 19.913 |
| % change in present value of total obligation | 1.7% | | -1.6% |
| Projected service cost (£M) | 0.693 | 0.660 | 0.628 |
| Approximate % change in projected service cost | 5.0% | | -4.9% |

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

Sensitivity analysis for the principal assumptions (continued)

Post retirement mortality assumption

| Adjustment to mortality age rating assumption | -1 year | Base figure | +1 year |
|--|---------|-------------|---------|
| Present value of total obligation (£M) | 20.662 | 20.237 | 19.792 |
| % change in present value of total obligation | 2.1% | | -2.2% |
| Projected service cost (£M) | 0.682 | 0.6 | 0.638 |
| | | 60 | |
| Approximate % change in projected service cost | 3.4% | | -3.4% |

The current mortality assumptions include sufficient allowance for future improvements in mortality rates.

The assumed life expectations on retirement age 65 are:

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|-----------------------------|------|------|
| Retiring today | | |
| Males | 21.2 | 20.8 |
| Females | 24.2 | 24.0 |
| Retiring in 20 years | | |
| Males | 22.1 | 21.7 |
| Females | 24.9 | 24.7 |

The academy trust's share of the assets in the scheme were:

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 |
| Equity instruments | 21,981 | 20,191 |
| Government bonds | 2,810 | 2,240 |
| Corporate bonds | 1,085 | 1,018 |
| Cash | 501 | 687 |
| Other | 696 | 636 |
| Property | 751 | 687 |
| Total market value of assets | 27,824 | 25,459 |

The actual return on scheme assets was £1,617,000 surplus (2024: £2,583,000 surplus)

Amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 |
| Current service cost | (991) | (911) |
| Past service cost | - | - |
| Net interest from net defined benefit asset/liability | 142 | 66 |
| Total amount recognised in the SOFA | (849) | (845) |

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

The amounts recognised in other gains and losses are as follows:

| | 2025 £'000 | 2024 £'000 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Net actuarial gain in the period | 5,005 | 1,455 |
| Pension asset not recognised in year | (5,184) | (2,403) |
| Total | (170) | (948) |

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

| | 2025 £'000 | 2024 £'000 |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| At 1 September 2024 | 23,056 | 20,173 |
| Conversion of academy trusts | - | 963 |
| Current service cost | 991 | 911 |
| Interest cost | 1,124 | 1,065 |
| Employee contributions | 349 | 332 |
| Actuarial (gain)/loss | (4,654) | (3) |
| Benefits paid | (629) | (385) |
| At 31 August 2025 | 20,237 | 23,056 |

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

| | 2025 £'000 | 2024 £'000 |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| At 1 September 2024 | 25,459 | 20,980 |
| Conversion of academy trusts | - | 979 |
| Interest income | 1,266 | 1,131 |
| Actuarial gain/(loss) | 351 | 1,452 |
| Employer contributions | 1,028 | 970 |
| Employee contributions | 349 | 332 |
| Benefits paid | (629) | (385) |
| At 31 August 2025 | 27,824 | 25,459 |

The LGPS obligation relates to the employees of Pontefract Academies Trust, who were the employees transferred as part of the conversion from maintained school and new employees who were eligible to, and did, join the pension schemes. The obligation in respect of employees who transferred on conversion represents their cumulative service at both the predecessor school and Pontefract Academies Trust at the balance sheet date.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

27. Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the academy trust's operations and the composition of the board of trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the 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 trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures relating to connected and related party transactions.

No related party transactions took place in the financial period other than a certain trustee's remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 9.

28. Events after the balance sheet date

The Trust has no post balance sheet events to report.

29. Legal Form

The trust is a private limited company incorporated in England and Wales and limited by guarantee. Its registered office is The Barracks Business Centre, Wakefield Road, Pontefract, West Yorkshire, England, WF8 4HH.