

Company Registration Number: 09022463 (England & Wales)

Bourne Alliance Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2025

Bourne Alliance Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

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Reference and Administrative Details of the Academy trust, its trustees and Advisers
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

| | |
|--|--|
| Members | David Walker Graeme Lloyd Louise Wade Neil Peterson Liam McHugh |
| Trustees | Diane Browning, CEO and Accounting Officer Neil Peterson (Chair of Trustees) Mandy Garner John White Richard Longley Simon Mason |
| Company registered number | 09022463 |
| Principal and registered office | Iwade School School Lane Iwade Sittingbourne Kent ME9 8RS |
| Company secretary | Mrs D Stryzyk |
| Senior management team | D Browning, Chief Executive Officer T Wood, Deputy CEO (and temporary Head of School - Bobbing from 7/4/25-31/8/25) K Stewart, Head of School – Iwade T Harwood, Head of School – Bobbing (to 4/4/25) S Johnson, Head of School Bobbing (from 1/9/25) N Dipple, Headteacher – Aspire L Flain, Head of School – Grove Park C Wybraniac – School Improvement Leader V Lange – School Improvement Leader D Stacey, CFO |
| Independent auditors | UHY Hacker Young Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors Thames House Roman Square Sittingbourne Kent. ME10 4BJ |
| Bankers | Lloyds Bank plc 125 High Street Sittingbourne Kent. ME10 4BD |
| Solicitors | Veale Wasborough Vizards Barnards Inn 86 Fetter Lane London. EC4A 1AD |

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Trustees' Report
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

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

The academy trust operates 4 primary academies in and around Sittingbourne, Kent:

- Bobbing Village School
- Iwade School
- Grove Park Primary School
- Aspire School

Its academies have a combined pupil capacity of 1,449 with effect from 1 September 2025.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**Constitution**

The academy trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy trust. The trustees of Bourne Alliance Multi Academy Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company operates as Bourne Alliance Multi Academy Trust.

Details of the trustees who served during the year are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

Members' Liability

Each member of the academy trust undertakes to contribute to the assets in the event of the academy trust 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

Subject to the provisions of the Companies Act 2006, every Trustee and Officer of the Academy shall be indemnified out of the assets of the Academy against any liability incurred by them in that capacity in defending any proceedings, whether civil or criminal, in which judgement is given in favour or in which they are acquitted or in connection with any application in which relief is granted to him by the court from liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the affairs of the Academy.

The academy trust has opted into the Department for Education's (DfE'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.

No indemnities have been given to any third parties on behalf of the Trustees.

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

The number of directors (trustees) shall be not less than three and up to 10 under article 50, point 46a in the Articles of Association. The term of office for any director shall be four years. Future directors shall be appointed or elected under the articles of association. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of trustee (directors) any trustee may be re-appointed or re-elected.

The trust's members may appoint up to ten directors plus staff directors (staff directors not to exceed one third of total number of directors). The academy's CEO acts as an ex-officio trustee in accordance with the requirements of the DfE without the need for appointment or election. The trustees (directors) may appoint co-opted directors. Parent directors shall be elected by parents of registered pupils of the academies in accordance with article 53, and a parent director must be a parent of a registered pupil at the academy at the time they are elected. All parents are entitled to stand as candidates for election where a vacancy for a parent director is required to be filled.

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Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees

Training and induction is tailored to new Trustees as appropriate to their requirements and previous experience. Trustees have access to policies, procedures, minutes, budgets, accounts and other relevant plans and documents that they need to fulfil their role. New induction processes are now in place to support all governance roles in getting up to speed to take on the role, along with a mentor. There has been a positive impact from all governors undertaking 15 hours of CPD a year and this will continue into next academic year. The BA MAT Trust governance handbook has been rolled out this year and has been updated with new guidance and changes ready for the next academic year.

Organisational Structure

The Trust Board has continued and has no vacancies. The Local Governing Body continues to be a committee of the Trust, along with the Standards committee and the Operations committees. All 3 committees work with reciprocal reporting whereby each committee consists of at least 1 member of the Trust board and at least 1 member of the LGB. The Trustees on the committees then feedback to the full Board along with sharing the minutes of the meetings. The LGB has been strengthened and now has parental representation from each school. In addition, there is a Finance and Risk committee, made up of trustees, which the DCEO and CFO attend but are not voting members.

Leadership and management across the trust are delegated by trustees to the CEO.

The Trust Executive has been streamlined and consists of the CEO, Deputy CEO, Estates Manager and CFO who hold oversight for the Trust across the schools. Alongside this is the Strategic Team, which is led by the CEO and includes the Heads of each school and the Deputy CEO, and the School Improvement Team. In each school there is a Senior Leadership team which consists of the SENCo (mainstream schools), Assistant Headteachers and Head.

The Trust Strategic Team is responsible for the strategic development and day to day operation of the academies, in particular organising the teaching staff, facilities, curriculum and pupils. Some spending control is also devolved to Heads of School. The CEO is the Accounting Officer for the trust although certain functions are delegated to the CFO on a day-to-day basis.

The School Improvement team consists of the Teaching & Learning Lead and the Curriculum Development Lead who work across all 4 schools to improve teaching, ensure ECTs are fully supported and develop a broad and balanced curriculum offer.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and senior leadership team as disclosed on page 1.

The pay policy, setting the terms and conditions for the key management personnel, was developed and approved by the board of trustees, after taking advice from the CEO and following guidance from the relevant professional pay review bodies. Naturally the key management personnel were not involved in setting their own remuneration package.

Only staff trustees, including the CEO, are remunerated, and these individuals only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide under their contracts of employment, and not in respect of their role as trustees. Specific disclosures concerning staff trustees' remuneration is included in note 14.

The day to day running of the pay policy is delegated to the CEO and monitored by the Finance and Audit committee. All details for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel are set out in the pay policy and appraisal policy which are reviewed annually by the board of trustees.

Remuneration of key management personnel is set at an individual level, and where possible the trustees have taken external professional advice which includes benchmarking, market trends and advice on structuring of incentives. Senior management salaries are linked closely to pay spines, helping trustees conclude that each individual's remuneration is at an appropriate level. As such, salaries are linked to factors such as length of service and experience. Total remuneration packages include employer pension contribution rates at specific approved rates.

The board are mindful of the charitable status of the academy trust and in recognise the fact the trust receives funding under a funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education, and therefore ensure the remuneration paid to senior management personnel never exceeds a reasonable amount that provides value for money to the trust. Due regard is given to the latest executive pay guidance issued by the DfE. The performance of senior management personnel is reviewed on a regular basis to ensure continuing value for money.

Total remuneration paid to senior management personnel is set out in note 12 (d).

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For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Trade Union facility time

The trust did not have any employees who action as union officials during the year and so no time was spent on facility time or union matters.

Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

The trust is a member of the Gateway Alliance, a collaboration of local schools who work together to raise standards for all young people and to enhance the capacity within each organisation, whilst maintaining individual identity. The Gateway Alliance is a separate financial entity and is chaired by the CEO of Bourne Alliance Multi Academy Trust.

The trust also belongs to KSENT, the association of Kent Special Schools. The Aspire headteacher attends the headteacher group and the CFO chairs the finance group.

The trust is also a founder member of the Kent MAT Alliance (KMA) a group of Kent Trusts who work together to support and challenge one another and identify opportunities for collaborative working and purchasing.

The trust completed 2 transactions with West Faversham Community Centre this year. This is a related party as the CEO of the community centre charity is the son of the trust CEO. A year 6 leavers event was held as this was so successful when they stepped in last year when the original provider pulled out at the last minute, plus sports funded climbing wall activities for year 4 pupils across the mainstream schools in the Trust.

The trust has also completed related party transactions with Pearson which is a related party as our Chair of Trustees is employed by them. Transactions relate to renewals of existing curriculum subscriptions. Our chair had no involvement in the selection or subsequent renewal of any of these services.

DfE were notified in advance as required and all processes were correctly followed for the transactions that offered best value to the trust.

Engagement with Employees (including disabled persons)

Employees receive regular updates from their schools and the Trust, through briefings, newsletters and other means. Key policies and documents are available to all staff on SharePoint to ensure accessibility.

It is the Trust's policy to treat all workers and job applicants equally and fairly, irrespective of their sex, marital status, civil partnership status, trans-gender status, sexual orientation, race, colour, nationality, ethnic origin, national origin, culture, religion, age, or disability.

The Trust publishes an Equality Statement. This statement sets out the Trust's commitment to Equality, Diversity and Human Rights as well as explaining the key principles, drivers and duties that inform this responsibility. It also explains what the Trust will do to make sure that we fulfil these responsibilities.

Each school within the Trust will produce an individual set of equality objectives.

Our Trust values and vision were set with stakeholders in 2024 and are reviewed as part of the Trust Plan.

Engagement with Suppliers, Customers and Others in a Business Relationship with the Trust

The Trust has given regard to the need to foster the company's business relationship with suppliers, customers and others. The Trust is working towards reducing carbonisation by using local suppliers where possible and this work will continue.

The Trust commenced payment practices reporting in 2024/25, with reports published in March and September. and always endeavours to adhere to supplier payment terms.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objects and Aims

The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

Bourne Alliance Multi Academy Trust is currently a trust with 4 schools. The Trust has been awarded sponsor status and is engaged in working in and establishing a range of professional networks include Kent MAT Alliance, Gateway Alliance Heads group as well as

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Trustees' Report **For the Year Ended 31 August 2025**

Alliance Attendance, Safeguarding and Pupil Premium groups.

Trust mission statement: Everyone matters, everyone belongs

Trust values: Inspirational, inclusive and individual

Trust vision:

- Bourne Alliance is known for its diverse, broad and balanced curriculum which meets the individual needs for all children. The curriculum offers enhanced opportunities for children to excel within an inclusive culture preparing them for their next phase of education, academically, socially and emotionally.
- Our practice is continually adapting to change, research informed, outward facing and collaborative to provide the very best for all pupils.
- The outdoor environments are used to develop our pupils understanding of how to be risk aware, to lead an active and healthy lifestyle whilst learning how to care for themselves and our planet.
- Our staffing strategy provides professional development for all staff to ensure we consistently achieve the highest standards in all areas. Excellent practice will be shared across all schools to benefit all pupils. Our aim is that everyone feels valued and proud to be part of the Trust.
- The Trust is effectively and efficiently led to ensure that the environment is safe and purposeful, the provision and the workforce deliver its core purpose, and has a focus on environmental sustainability, working towards becoming carbon neutral.

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

The following key strategic objectives will steer the Trust development and potential to grow over the next 3 years. These are informed by the guidance in the MAT Assurance Framework and the Trust Quality Descriptors:

- Writing across all schools
- Foundation subjects including assessment in all schools and Pathways
- Outdoor learning – strengthening the OPAL and Forest School provision
- Technology in the Curriculum project to support learning and engagement
- Focus on raising attainment in the mainstream schools
- Trauma and attachment teacher work and tracking impact on the children and their families
- Embedding behaviour approaches in the mainstream schools and fine tuning the Wellbeing Around the Child approach at Aspire
- Attendance
- Trust reviews with each school
- Launch of Bourne To Teach programme led by the School Improvement Team in the mainstream schools
- Sustainability across all strands of the Trust work and within the schools
- Governance monitoring

The Trust will continue to work closely with the 2 partners in the Kent MAT Alliance to undertake peer review work and as a supportive and accountability measure. Furthermore, the Trust is using a local MAT to provide quality assurance and an additional consultant for audits and improvement purposes.

Public Benefit

The academy trust's aims, activities and achievements as set out in this report are and have been undertaken in the furtherance of the charitable objects for public benefit. In setting our objectives and planning our activities the trustees have carefully considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

Wherever possible the trust also aims to contribute to the benefit of the wider public. Through the year, contributions which benefit the wider community included the following:

- Availability of the school facilities for community use, such as a karate club; dance & gymnastic club
- Fund raising through the year for a range of local and national charities, including the Poppy Appeal and Children in Need
- Offering local community events such as Easter and Summer Fairs and Productions

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STRATEGIC REPORT

Key Financial Performance Indicators

- Staff costs as a percentage of income (excluding capital) to be maintained under 80%. Staff costs are 79% of income.
- Staff costs as a percentage of total costs to be maintained under 80%. Staff costs are 80% of total costs.

The trustees are pleased with how the trust has performed. Additional indicators are included in the plans for the future for each school.

Note: staff costs and total costs exclude the LGPS service, administration and interest costs arising from the pension fund report provided by the scheme actuary.

Achievements and Performance

The Trust continues to commission external deep dives into curriculum and Inclusion from another local Trust. This year has had multiple deep dives externally and internally (from the School Improvement team). The external reviews also act to quality assure the School Improvement team judgements.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Most of the academy trust's recurrent income is obtained from the DfE in the form of grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE during the year ended 31 August 2025 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities ("SoFA"). Core grant income has been supplemented by capital funding and various other self-generated income streams.

Total income for the year was £13.29m, up from £11.32m in the previous year.

Total expenditure for the year was £12.38m and the SoFA therefore shows net income over expenditure for the year of £908k (2024: £225k). The overall net movement in funds, after other gains/losses arising on the Local Government defined benefit pension scheme ("LGPS"), was an increase of £639k (2024: decrease of £43k). Due to the impact of the pension movement, and also income and expenditure recorded in the restricted fixed asset fund, this overall movement in funds does not reflect the meaningful operational result.

The table below reconciles from the overall movement in funds to the result on revenue income funds, a decrease of £195k:

| | 2025 (£000s) | 2024 (£000s) |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Overall net movement in funds for the year per SoFA | 639 | (43) |
| <u>Add:</u> | | |
| Increase attributable to fixed asset fund | (834) | (43) |
| LGPS actuarial loss/(gain) | (1,912) | 51 |
| LGPS service and interest costs | (269) | (268) |
| Restriction to LGPS surplus | 2,181 | 217 |
| Total movement in year on revenue funds | (195) | (86) |
| Revenue to capital transfers | 963 | 708 |
| Operational surplus on revenue funds | 768 | 622 |

During the year, revenue funding of £963k has been used to purchase capital assets treated as fixed assets on the Balance Sheet and to set aside certain funds for future capital projects, and these are reflected on the SoFA as revenue to capital transfers into the fixed asset fund. Therefore the 'operational' result prior to these transfers would have been a surplus of £768k.

At 31 August 2025, the net book value of fixed assets was £24.9m and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 16 to the financial statements. During the year the assets were used almost exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the trust's academies.

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Financial position

The trust held fund balances at 31 August 2025 of £27.91m (2024: £27.28m). These funds comprised restricted fixed asset funds of £25.37m (2024: £24.54m), restricted revenue funds of £864k (2024: £1.25m) and unrestricted revenue funds of £1.68m (2024: £1.49m). The fixed asset fund includes £527k of, as yet, unspent capital funding.

The pension reserve, relating to the present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability, shows a £nil balance at 31 August 2025, as it did at 31 August 2024. In accordance with accounting requirements, the trust's share of LGPS is carried on the Balance Sheet, with movements each year quantified by the Local Authority's actuary and reflected through the SOFA. The valuation report received from the Local Authority appointed actuary indicated that a pension accounting surplus existed at both 31 August 2025 and 31 August 2024, however accounting standards state that if an employer has an accounting surplus, it should only be recognised to the extent that it is able to recover the surplus either through reduced contributions in the future, or through refunds. There are differing opinions across the public sector and the accounting profession as to the extent to which a pension surplus represents an "unconditional right" of employers and therefore the extent to which the surplus can be recognised as being of economic value, and to date the DfE have been unable to give any guidance to academy trusts. The trustees have therefore taken the view that, as a long-term employer open to new members, there is not a reasonable expectation of ever reaching a point of cessation and therefore being able to access a return of surplus. Accordingly, the surplus has not been included and a break-even £nil position has been reflected on the Balance Sheet. The pension surplus is disclosed in note 2 and the actuarial assumptions and other movements in the year are disclosed in note 28.

Any pension surplus or deficit is merely an accounting figure calculated under FRS 102 for the purposes of the financial statements and has no direct effect on the employer contribution rate paid by the Academy Trust, which is determined using longer-term funding assumptions. These contribution rates are reviewed every three years in consultation with the scheme's administrators, and current employer contributions due by the Academy Trust are fixed until 1 April 2026.

Reserves Policy

The trustees review the reserve levels of the trust annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The trustees will always try to match income with expenditure in the current year (set and manage a balanced budget), will only carry forward reserves that it considers necessary and will have a clear plan for how it will be used to benefit the pupils.

The trustees have determined that the appropriate minimum level of free reserves should be £945,000. The reason for this is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grant income and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance or long-term sickness where unforeseen costs are incurred.

Additional reserves are being held to fund capital projects due to take place in 2025/26.

The academy trust's reserves policy:

- Assists in strategic planning by considering how new projects or activities will be funded.
- Informs the budget process by considering whether reserves need to be used during the financial year or built up for future projects.
- Informs the budget and risk management process by identifying any uncertainty in future income streams.

The trustees identify:

- When reserves are drawn on, so that they understand the reasons for this and can consider what corrective action, if any, needs to be taken.
- When reserve levels rise significantly above target so that they understand the reasons and can consider the corrective action, if any that needs to be taken.

When considering an appropriate level of reserves, the governors/trustees consider:

- The risk of unforeseen emergency or other unexpected need for funds.
- Covering unforeseen day-to-day operational costs, for example employing temporary staff to cover a long-term sick absence.
- A fall in a source of income, such as lettings.
- Planned commitments, or designations, that cannot be met by future income alone, for example plans for a major capital project.
- The need to fund potential deficits in a cash budget, for example money may need to be spent before a funding grant is received.

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Going Concern

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

Investment Policy

At Bourne Alliance Multi Academy Trust, we are careful with the public money we are entrusted with. We will carefully invest any money that is not required to cover anticipated expenditure and take steps to manage the risk associated with financial investments.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that any surplus funds are invested well so that they achieve the best financial returns with the minimum risk. Good financial returns mean that more money can be spent on educating pupils.

Adequate cash balances are maintained to ensure that there are always sufficient funds in the Trust's current account to cover financial commitments such as payroll and day-to-day expenses. If there is a surplus of funds after all financial commitments have been considered, this surplus will be invested. Funds may only be invested with the following banks and building societies: Lloyds Bank PLC or other UK based institutions via the Insignis Investment Platform. The CFO regularly compares alternative investment opportunities to ensure that the school's funds achieve the best interest rates. The CEO is responsible for ensuring that this policy is adhered to.

Investments must be made only in accordance with this policy approved by the Board of Directors.

All investments must be recorded in sufficient detail to identify the investment and to enable the current market value to be calculated. The information required will normally be the date of purchase, the cost and description of the investment. Additional procedures may be required to ensure any income receivable from the investment is received.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The main risks that the trust exposed to are summarised below. For each of these risks the probability, impact and seriousness have been considered together with appropriate action and management plans:

- *Strategic and reputational* – this covers the risks to the management of the academy trust which could affect its viability
- *Operational* - this covers risks to the running of the constituent academies (including the capacity of staff and estates to meet the needs of pupils) and its performance in delivering the curriculum.
- *Financial* - covering risks to the academy trust's financial position, including revenue streams, cost control and cash management.
- *Compliance* – covering the risks which can arise from non-compliance with legislation, educational guidance and audit.

The risks to which the trust is exposed arise both internally and externally. External risks include those in respect of future funding levels, competition, changes to rules and regulations, and the financial position of the staff pension schemes.

The Finance and Audit committee have continued to review the risk register across the year and discuss the risk ratings and mitigations. These are all tracked and the process is in line with national guidance.

Financial and Risk Management Objectives and Policies

The trust does not use complex financial instruments. It manages its activities using cash and various items such as trade debtors and trade creditors that arise directly from its operations.

FUNDRAISING

The trust carries out very limited fundraising activities, which are targeted at parents and carers. Fundraising is usually associated with goods or services related to the child, such as school photographs and PTA events. In addition, the trust supports a number of local and national charities such as Children in Need and the Poppy Appeal.

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Each community within the trust mainstream schools raises funds throughout the year to use to support initiatives within their community and to support a charity chosen by the children. Activities which support this are school events (such as discos), fairs and making items to sell to the parents.

The trust does not currently work with professional fundraisers. The trust is aware of the Code of Fundraising Practice, issued by the Fundraising Regulator and endeavours to conform to those sections applicable to our activities. The trust has a published complaints policy, available on the website, although no complaints have been received in relation to fundraising.

The trustees ensure that the trust refrain from any unreasonably intrusive or persistent fundraising approaches, and undue pressure to donate.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

High quality and inclusive education

- Continuing to develop and embed the work on writing
- SEND and inclusive provision
- Working with the new Ofsted framework

School Improvement

- Trust reviews and measuring impact with the schools

Workforce

- Developing ‘Bourne To’ programmes for wider roles in the Trust

Finance and operations

- Sustainability project will continue

STREAMLINED ENERGY AND CARBON REPORTING

The trust remains in scope for this reporting and is pleased to report its current UK based annual energy usage and associated annual greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions pursuant to the Companies (Directors’ Report) and Limited Liability Partnerships (Energy and Carbon Report) Regulations 2018 that came into force 1 April 2019.

| UK Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data for the period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 | 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 | 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 |
|--|---|---|
| Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh) | 1,079,096 | 1,204,657 |
| Energy consumption break down (kWh) (optional): | | |
| • gas | 773,192 | 875,024 |
| • electricity | 305,904 | 329,633 |
| • transport fuel | | |
| Scope 1 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e | | |
| Gas consumption | 141.46 | 160.04 |
| Owned transport – mini-buses | 1.97 | 1.65 |
| Total Scope 1 | 143.43 | 161.69 |
| Scope 2 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e | | |
| Purchased electricity | 54.15 | 68.25 |
| Scope 3 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e | | |
| Business travel in employee owned vehicles | 0.13 | 0.05 |
| Total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO2e | 197.71 | 229.99 |
| Intensity ratio Tonnes CO2e per pupil | 0.14 | 0.16 |

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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

The trust is committed to reducing longer term emissions and this year has seen the implementation of various energy efficiency measures, including:

- Installation of new pipework, heat emitters and taps at Grove Park School
- Plans approved for installation of solar panels at Iwade
- Replacing end of life light fittings with LED options at Iwade and Bobbing
- Investment in metering technology services to provide greater visibility of energy consumption across the trust
- Renewal of boilers to annex buildings at Grove Park and Iwade

AUDITOR

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the academy trust'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.

This report, incorporating the Strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on and signed on the board's behalf by:

Signed by:

F2A1EA6D898B496...
Neil Peterson
Chair of Trustees

DocuSigned by:

2B7FFC9321184FD...
Diane Browning
CEO and Accounting Officer

Date: 11 December 2025

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Governance Statement
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Scope of Responsibility

As trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Bourne Alliance Multi Academy 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 Handbook and competency framework for governance.

The board of trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the CEO, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform to the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Bourne Alliance Multi Academy 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.

Trustees

The Board continues to actively seek trustees with relevant experience and skills to strategically lead the trust.

The trust has carried out in-house training to develop trustees' knowledge and understanding of key processes and outcomes of the schools leading to more effective challenge and evaluation and raised standards.

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 five times during the year; these have been face to face meetings, with some Trustees attending remotely via Teams when necessary. This has proven to be an effective way of working and has supported Trustee attendance.

Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of trustees was as follows:

| Trustee | Meetings attended | Out of a possible |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mr. Neil Peterson (Chair of Trustees) | 4 | 4 |
| Mrs. Diane Browning (CEO) | 4 | 4 |
| Mr. Richard Longley | 4 | 4 |
| Mrs. Mandy Garner | 3 | 4 |
| Mr. John White | 3 | 4 |
| Mr Simon Mason | 3 | 4 |

The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee is a sub-committee of the main board of trustees. Its purpose is to plan and monitor the financial and other resources of the trust effectively, and to ensure the constituent academies provide a safe educational environment. One of the Committee's responsibilities is routine budget setting and monitoring. The Finance, Audit & Risk Committee also fulfils the function of an audit committee, liaising with the external auditors at year end and with the internal auditors throughout the year.

The CFO, Dee Stacey and DCEO, Tamzin Wood, attended Finance, Audit and Risk Committee meetings in an advisory capacity.

Attendance during the year at meetings of Finance, Audit and Risk Committee was as follows:

| Trustee | Meetings attended | Out of a possible |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mr. John White (Committee chair) | 4 | 4 |
| Mrs. Diane Browning (CEO) | 4 | 4 |
| Mr. Richard Longley | 4 | 4 |
| Mr. Neil Peterson (Chair of Trustees) | 4 | 4 |
| Mrs. Dee Stacey (CFO, in attendance only) | 4 | 4 |
| Mrs Tamzin Wood (DCEO, in attendance only) | 4 | 4 |

Bourne Alliance Multi Academy Trust

(A company limited by guarantee)

Governance Statement

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Governance reviews:

The governance structure includes a single local governing body (LGB) working at school level. The trust board continues to provide strategic oversight.

The Trust has good attendance by the majority of Trustees.

The trustees are responsible for setting strategic direction and policy for the trust at a corporate level across the group of academies. The trustees approve a scheme of delegation which covers key functions and levels of responsibility for trustees, the LGB and finance committee members in terms of governance and levels of responsibility for senior staff in terms of leadership and management. The committees of the Trust Board are:

- The LGB reviews the Heads report and undertakes aspects of monitoring
- Finance, Audit & Risk Committee
- Standards committee
- Operations committee

Local Governors and committee members are appointed in accordance with the articles of association to be responsible for the affairs of the company and the management of the academies under the terms of the scheme of delegation along with senior staff.

Conflicts of Interest

Conflict of interests are managed through the following controls:

- All trustees, members and governors complete an annual declaration of interests as well as confirmation at each full board and committee meeting. Were there to be any conflict of interest declared the individual would not be able to take part in the agenda item discussion or voting. This would be documented by the Clerk to Trustees
- Any related party transactions with trustees are reported, tracked and submitted to the DfE by the Chief Financial Officer. Trustees with a declared conflict of interest are not involved in any procurement or decision-making process.
- The register of interests of trustees and key personnel is published on the trust's website.

Review of Value for Money

As Accounting Officer, the CEO has responsibility for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The Accounting Officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received. In line with the Academies Accounts Direction, this includes considering the estates spend for value for money to ensure that the trust's premises are safe, well maintained and comply with relevant compliance. In accordance with our estates strategy the trust is also prioritising measures to improve the energy efficiency of our sites, including the installation of LED lighting.

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

The trust continues to use purchasing frameworks where appropriate for procurement to ensure best value. Contracts such as printers, LED lighting installation, hygiene services and water heaters and coolers have been procured via frameworks. These result in savings for the trust, plus trustees have the reassurance that the contracts are fully compliant.

Additional income is generated for the trust through the hire of school facilities and the provision of breakfast and afterschool clubs.

The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of academy trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Bourne Alliance Multi Academy 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.

Bourne Alliance Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Governance Statement
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Capacity to Handle Risk

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the academy trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period year to 31 August 2025 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of trustees.

The Risk and Control Framework

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

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

The board of trustees appointed McCabe Ford Williams, chartered accountants, to deliver an internal audit service to carry out a regular program of internal scrutiny. This year, the trust has instructed one review by MFW and separate specialists to perform internal scrutiny of the trust’s safeguarding (by Graham Chisnell, Ofsted Inspector and former academy trust CEO) and the trust’s Estate Management by Jo Marchant MBE, School & Trust Estates Professional with 20 years’ experience and author of The School Premises Handbook.

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

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Visit in November 2024 & January 2025 | Safeguarding review |
| Visit in May 2025 | Good Estates Management review |
| Visit in August 2025 | Efficiency, Funding, Budgets and Purchase System review |

The reports are issued to the board of trustees, through the audit committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees’ financial responsibilities and annually prepares an annual summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

Scrutineers have completed their schedule of work as planned. All issues raised have been addressed and the latest review raised no material control issues. Trustees are satisfied with the actions taken to address any issues raised.

Review of Effectiveness

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

- the programme of internal scrutiny work
- the work of the external auditor
- the school resource management self-assessment tool
- the work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework

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

Bourne Alliance Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Governance Statement
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Conclusion

Based on the advice of the Finance, 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 and signed on its behalf by:

Signed by:

F2A1EA6D898B496...

Neil Peterson
Chair of Trustees

DocuSigned by:

2B7FFC9321184FD...

Diane Browning
Accounting Officer

Date: 11 December 2025

Bourne Alliance Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance

As Accounting Officer of Bourne Alliance Multi Academy 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 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.

DocuSigned by:

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Diane Browning
Accounting Officer

Date: 11 December 2025

Bourne Alliance Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement of trustees' responsibilities
For the year ended 31 August 2025

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

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the 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 of the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the 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 and signed on its behalf by:

Signed by:

F2A1EA6D898B496...
Neil Peterson
Chair of Trustees

Date: 11 December 2025

Bourne Alliance Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Independent Auditors' Report on the financial statements to the Members of Bourne Alliance Multi Academy Trust

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Bourne Alliance Multi Academy Trust (the 'academy trust') for the year ended 31 August 2025 which comprise the Statement of financial activities, the Balance sheet, the Statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by the Department for Education.

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Bourne Alliance Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Independent Auditors' Report on the financial statements to the Members of Bourne Alliance Multi Academy Trust (continued)

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Trustees' report including the Strategic report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' report and the Strategic report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

- 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 academy trust 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 academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the academy trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

How the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities including fraud:

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

- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the trust through discussions with management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the sector;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the accounts or the operations of the trust, including the Companies Act 2006;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

Bourne Alliance Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Independent Auditors' Report on the financial statements to the Members of Bourne Alliance Multi Academy Trust (continued)

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

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

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

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

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

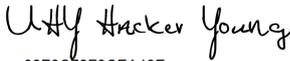
- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and
- enquiring of management and representatives of Trustees as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

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 Auditors' report.

Use of our report

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

DocuSigned by:

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Allan Hickie BSc FCA (Senior statutory auditor)

for and on behalf of

UHY Hacker Young

Chartered Accountants

Statutory Auditors

Thames House

Roman Square

Sittingbourne

Kent

ME10 4BJ

Date: 18 December 2025

Bourne Alliance Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Bourne Alliance Multi Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 5 July 2021 and further to the requirements of the Department for Education (DfE) as included in the extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts 2024 to 2025, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether anything has come to our attention that would suggest, in all material respects, the expenditure disbursed and income received by Bourne Alliance Multi Academy Trust during the year 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 have not been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to Bourne Alliance Multi Academy 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 Bourne Alliance Multi Academy 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 Bourne Alliance Multi Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Bourne Alliance Multi Academy Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Bourne Alliance Multi Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 29 May 2014 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2024, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

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. We performed a limited assurance engagement as defined in our engagement letter.

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion included:

- An evaluation of the general control environment, and whether delegated financial authorities are complied with and appropriate segregation of duties is in place.
- An assessment of the risk of material irregularity and impropriety across all of the academy trust's activities, which includes a review of the internal scrutiny reports for the year.
- Further testing and review of the areas identified through the risk assessment including enquiry and examination of supporting evidence across all areas identified, as well as additional verification work where considered necessary.
- A review of whether grants have been used in accordance with funding conditions.
- A review of trustee board and relevant sub-committee minutes for declaration interests.
- A review of expenditure for any supplies from related or connected parties.
- Consideration of whether the academy trust's governance arrangements and composition are in line with the Academy Trust Handbook.
- An assessment of whether the academy trust has complied with the 'must' requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook, which includes a review of the self-assessment declaration that we asked the Accounting Officer to complete.
- Consideration of evidence obtained through the work detailed above and the work completed as part of our external audit of the financial statements in order to support the regularity conclusion.

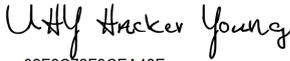
Bourne Alliance Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Bourne Alliance Multi Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education (continued)

In line with the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts issued March 2025, we have not performed any additional procedures regarding the academy trust's compliance with safeguarding, health and safety and estates management.

Conclusion

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

DocuSigned by:

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UHY Hacker Young
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
Thames House
Roman Square
Sittingbourne
Kent
ME10 4BJ

Date: 18 December 2025

Bourne Alliance Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement of financial activities (incorporating income and expenditure account)
For the year ended 31 August 2025

| | Note | Unrestricted funds 2025 £ | Restricted funds 2025 £ | Restricted fixed asset funds 2025 £ | Total funds 2025 £ | Total funds 2024 £ |
|---|------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Income from: | | | | | | |
| Donations and capital grants | 3 | 3,718 | 9,859 | 476,107 | 489,684 | 25,679 |
| Other trading activities | 4 | 268,187 | - | - | 268,187 | 292,131 |
| Investments | 5 | 138,481 | - | - | 138,481 | 82,652 |
| Funding for educational operations | 6 | 88,637 | 12,305,984 | - | 12,394,621 | 10,915,097 |
| Total income | | 499,023 | 12,315,843 | 476,107 | 13,290,973 | 11,315,559 |
| Expenditure on: | | | | | | |
| Raising funds | 8 | 194,542 | - | - | 194,542 | 186,394 |
| Charitable activities | 9 | 118,077 | 11,465,421 | 605,235 | 12,188,733 | 10,904,231 |
| Total expenditure | | 312,619 | 11,465,421 | 605,235 | 12,383,275 | 11,090,625 |
| Net income/(expenditure) | | 186,404 | 850,422 | (129,128) | 907,698 | 224,934 |
| Transfers between funds | 20 | - | (962,722) | 962,722 | - | - |
| Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses) | | 186,404 | (112,300) | 833,594 | 907,698 | 224,934 |
| Other recognised gains/(losses): | | | | | | |
| Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes | 28 | - | 1,912,000 | - | 1,912,000 | (51,000) |
| Pension surplus not recognised | 28 | - | (2,181,000) | - | (2,181,000) | (217,000) |
| Net movement in funds | | 186,404 | (381,300) | 833,594 | 638,698 | (43,066) |
| Reconciliation of funds: | | | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward | 20 | 1,492,102 | 1,245,529 | 24,537,309 | 27,274,940 | 27,318,006 |
| Net movement in funds | | 186,404 | (381,300) | 833,594 | 638,698 | (43,066) |
| Total funds carried forward | | 1,678,506 | 864,229 | 25,370,903 | 27,913,638 | 27,274,940 |

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

The notes on pages 25 to 47 form part of these financial statements.

Bourne Alliance Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)
Registered number: 09022463

Balance sheet
As at 31 August 2025

| | Note | 2025 £ | 2024 £ |
|---|------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Fixed assets | | | |
| Tangible assets | 16 | 24,862,313 | 24,183,042 |
| Current assets | | | |
| Debtors | 17 | 822,361 | 144,228 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 3,147,128 | 3,852,868 |
| | | <u>3,969,489</u> | <u>3,997,096</u> |
| Current liabilities | | | |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 18 | (905,494) | (886,751) |
| Net current assets | | <u>3,063,995</u> | <u>3,110,345</u> |
| Total assets less current liabilities | | <u>27,926,308</u> | <u>27,293,387</u> |
| Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year | 19 | (12,670) | (18,447) |
| Net assets excluding pension | | <u>27,913,638</u> | <u>27,274,940</u> |
| Defined benefit pension scheme | 28 | - | - |
| Total net assets | | <u><u>27,913,638</u></u> | <u><u>27,274,940</u></u> |
| Funds of the academy trust | | | |
| Restricted funds: | | | |
| Fixed asset funds | 20 | 25,370,903 | 24,537,309 |
| Restricted income funds | 20 | 864,229 | 1,245,529 |
| Total restricted funds | 20 | <u>26,235,132</u> | <u>25,782,838</u> |
| Unrestricted income funds | 20 | <u>1,678,506</u> | <u>1,492,102</u> |
| Total funds | | <u><u>27,913,638</u></u> | <u><u>27,274,940</u></u> |

The financial statements on pages 22 to 47 were approved and authorised for issue by the trustees and are signed on their behalf, by:

Signed by:

 F2A1EA6D898B496...
Neil Peterson
 Chair of Trustees

DocuSigned by:

 2B7FFC9321184FD...
Diane Browning
 Accounting Officer

Date: 11 December 2025

The notes on pages 25 to 47 form part of these financial statements.

Bourne Alliance Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement of cash flows
For the year ended 31 August 2025

| | Note | 2025 £ | 2024 £ |
|---|--------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Cash flows from operating activities | | | |
| Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities | 22 | (66,762) | 983,936 |
| Cash flows from investing activities | 24 | (633,201) | (585,790) |
| Cash flows from financing activities | 23 | (5,777) | (5,778) |
| | | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year | | (705,740) | 392,368 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year | | 3,852,868 | 3,460,500 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year | 25, 26 | <u><u>3,147,128</u></u> | <u><u>3,852,868</u></u> |

The notes on pages 25 to 47 form part of these financial statements

Bourne Alliance Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2025

1. Accounting policies

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

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

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

Bourne Alliance Multi Academy Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

1.2 Going concern

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

1.3 Income

All income is 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 year is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

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

• **Donations**

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

• **Other income**

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

1.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are

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Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.4 Expenditure (continued)

not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

- **Expenditure on raising funds**

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

- **Charitable activities**

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

Where relevant, expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.5 Interest receivable

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

1.6 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.

1.7 Tangible fixed assets

Individual assets and group purchases on one purchase order (or made as part of an individual project) costing £5,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

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:

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Long-term leasehold property | - 125 years (the term of the lease) |
| Leasehold improvements | - 10% straight line |
| Furniture and equipment | - 25% straight line |
| Computer equipment | - 33.33% straight line |

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

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Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.7 Tangible fixed assets (continued)

of any fixed asset may not be recoverable. Shortfalls between the carrying value of fixed assets and their recoverable amounts are recognised as impairments. Impairment losses are recognised in the Statement of financial activities.

1.8 Debtors

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

1.9 Cash at bank and in hand

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

1.10 Liabilities

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

1.11 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 17. 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 18 and 19. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

1.12 Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of financial activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

1.13 Pensions

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

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

The LGPS is a funded multi-employer scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the academy trust in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high

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Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.13 Pensions (continued)

quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each Balance sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the Statement of financial activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses.

1.14 Fund accounting

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

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

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

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

2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 28, 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.

The ultimate responsibility for setting the assumptions is that of the academy trust, as the employer, however each year the LGPS actuary proposes a standard set of assumptions as part of the valuation exercise, using their expert opinion, and which comply with the accounting requirements. The academy trust has, in practice with most employers, adopted the recommended actuarial assumptions following further consultation with its auditors to ensure these assumptions are reasonable and in line with those adopted by other academy trusts.

Critical areas of judgment:

LGPS pension asset recognition

FRS 102 section 28.22 allows an entity to recognise a pension asset "only to the extent it is able to recover the surplus either

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Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2025

2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment (continued)

through reduced contributions in the future or through refunds from the plan."

Therefore although the LGPS actuarial valuation report for the year ended 31 August 2025 indicates a defined benefit asset of £2,760,000 (2024 - £579,000) existed at the year end date, this asset has been restricted to leave a break-even position on the Balance Sheet.

The movement in the unrecognised defined benefit asset during the year of £2,181,000 (2024 - £217,000) is shown on the Statement of Financial Activities as an adjustment for restriction on pension assets.

3. Income from donations and capital grants

| | Unrestricted funds 2025 £ | Restricted funds 2025 £ | Restricted fixed asset funds 2025 £ | Total funds 2025 £ | Total funds 2024 £ |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Donations | 3,718 | 9,859 | - | 13,577 | 7,079 |
| Capital grants | - | - | 476,107 | 476,107 | 18,600 |
| | <u>3,718</u> | <u>9,859</u> | <u>476,107</u> | <u>489,684</u> | <u>25,679</u> |
| <i>Analysis of 2024 total by fund</i> | <u>7,079</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>18,600</u> | <u>25,679</u> | |

4. Income from other trading activities

| | Unrestricted funds 2025 £ | Restricted funds 2025 £ | Total funds 2025 £ | Total funds 2024 £ |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Clubs income | 231,941 | - | 231,941 | 237,063 |
| Income from facilities and services | 19,434 | - | 19,434 | 21,937 |
| Lettings income | 16,812 | - | 16,812 | 21,199 |
| Insurance claims | - | - | - | 11,932 |
| | <u>268,187</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>268,187</u> | <u>292,131</u> |
| <i>Analysis of 2024 total by fund</i> | <u>280,632</u> | <u>11,499</u> | <u>292,131</u> | |

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Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2025

5. Investment income

| | Unrestricted funds 2025 £ | Total funds 2025 £ | <i>Total funds 2024 £</i> |
|---------------|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Bank interest | 138,481 | 138,481 | 82,652 |

6. Funding for educational operations

| | Unrestricted funds 2025 £ | Restricted funds 2025 £ | Total funds 2025 £ | <i>Total funds 2024 £</i> |
|---|--|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Educational operations | | | | |
| DfE grants | | | | |
| General Annual Grant (GAG) | - | 7,519,247 | 7,519,247 | 7,104,973 |
| Other DfE grants | | | | |
| Pupil premium | - | 419,033 | 419,033 | 368,151 |
| Universal infant free school meals | - | 175,984 | 175,984 | 195,166 |
| PE and Sports grant | - | 76,270 | 76,270 | 75,980 |
| Teachers' pay grant | - | 94,572 | 94,572 | 93,045 |
| Teachers' pension grant | - | 114,588 | 114,588 | 47,746 |
| Core schools budget grant | - | 198,552 | 198,552 | - |
| NIC grant | - | 49,495 | 49,495 | - |
| Mainstream schools additional grant | - | - | - | 177,747 |
| Others | - | 17,999 | 17,999 | 6,007 |
| | - | 8,665,740 | 8,665,740 | 8,068,815 |
| Other Government grants | | | | |
| Other local authority grants | - | 671,846 | 671,846 | 388,581 |
| Local authority - Special educational funding | - | 2,966,678 | 2,966,678 | 2,298,720 |
| | - | 3,638,524 | 3,638,524 | 2,687,301 |
| Other income from educational operations | 88,637 | 1,720 | 90,357 | 88,350 |
| COVID-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA) | | | | |
| Other DfE COVID-19 funding | - | - | - | 70,631 |
| | 88,637 | 12,305,984 | 12,394,621 | 10,915,097 |
| <i>Analysis of 2024 total by fund</i> | 86,910 | 10,828,187 | 10,915,097 | |

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Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2025

7. Expenditure

| | Staff Costs 2025 £ | Premises 2025 £ | Other 2025 £ | Total 2025 £ | <i>Total</i> <i>2024</i> <i>£</i> |
|--|---|--|---|---|---|
| Expenditure on fundraising trading activities: | | | | | |
| Direct costs | 194,542 | - | - | 194,542 | <i>186,394</i> |
| Educational operations: | | | | | |
| Direct costs | 8,617,432 | 421,198 | 804,513 | 9,843,143 | <i>8,799,656</i> |
| Support costs | 1,063,251 | 750,215 | 532,124 | 2,345,590 | <i>2,104,575</i> |
| | <u>9,875,225</u> | <u>1,171,413</u> | <u>1,336,637</u> | <u>12,383,275</u> | <u><i>11,090,625</i></u> |
| <i>Analysis of 2024 total</i> | <u><i>8,541,690</i></u> | <u><i>1,139,735</i></u> | <u><i>1,409,200</i></u> | <u><i>11,090,625</i></u> | |

8. Expenditure on raising funds

Fundraising and other trading expenses

| | Unrestricted funds 2025 £ | Total funds 2025 £ | <i>Total</i> <i>funds</i> <i>2024</i> <i>£</i> |
|-------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Wages and salaries - clubs | 153,827 | 153,827 | <i>148,122</i> |
| Social security costs - clubs | 11,275 | 11,275 | <i>7,658</i> |
| Pension costs - clubs | 29,440 | 29,440 | <i>30,578</i> |
| Fundraising expenditure | - | - | <i>36</i> |
| | <u>194,542</u> | <u>194,542</u> | <u><i>186,394</i></u> |

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Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2025

9. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

| | Unrestricted funds 2025 £ | Restricted funds 2025 £ | Total 2025 £ | <i>Total 2024 £</i> |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Educational operations | 118,077 | 12,070,656 | 12,188,733 | <i>10,904,231</i> |
| <i>Analysis of 2024 total by fund</i> | <i>46,123</i> | <i>10,858,108</i> | <i>10,904,231</i> | |

10. Analysis of expenditure by activities

| | Direct costs 2025 £ | Support costs 2025 £ | Total funds 2025 £ | <i>Total funds 2024 £</i> |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Educational operations | 9,843,143 | 2,345,590 | 12,188,733 | <i>10,904,231</i> |
| <i>Analysis of 2024 total</i> | <i>8,799,656</i> | <i>2,104,575</i> | <i>10,904,231</i> | |

Analysis of support costs

| | Total funds 2025 £ | <i>Total funds 2024 £</i> |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Staff costs | 1,063,251 | <i>914,326</i> |
| Technology costs | 118,284 | <i>113,239</i> |
| Premises costs | 750,215 | <i>687,167</i> |
| Legal costs | 1,040 | <i>1,665</i> |
| Governance costs | 17,049 | <i>18,423</i> |
| Other support costs | 395,751 | <i>369,755</i> |
| | 2,345,590 | <i>2,104,575</i> |

Staff costs include a defined benefit pension scheme credit arising from the LGPS actuarial report of £269,000 (2024 - a credit of £268,000).

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Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2025

11. Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

| | 2025 | <i>2024</i> |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Operating lease rentals | 43,271 | <i>50,626</i> |
| Depreciation of tangible fixed assets | 568,516 | <i>663,384</i> |
| Loss on disposal of fixed assets | - | <i>1,190</i> |
| Fees paid to auditors for: | | |
| - audit | 11,440 | <i>11,000</i> |
| - other services | 2,805 | <i>2,695</i> |
| | <u>11,440</u> | <u>11,000</u> |

12. Staff

a. Staff costs and employee benefits

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

| | 2025 | <i>2024</i> |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Wages and salaries | 7,362,488 | <i>6,672,061</i> |
| Social security costs | 717,125 | <i>544,450</i> |
| Pension costs | 1,556,970 | <i>1,277,795</i> |
| | <u>9,636,583</u> | <u>8,494,306</u> |
| Agency staff costs | 238,642 | <i>47,384</i> |
| | <u>9,875,225</u> | <u>8,541,690</u> |

Included in the staff costs above are restructuring costs of £Nil (*2024 - £3,693*).

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

| | | |
|---------------------|----------|--------------|
| Redundancy payments | - | <i>3,693</i> |
| | <u>-</u> | <u>3,693</u> |

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Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2025

12. Staff (continued)

b. Staff numbers

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

| | 2025 | <i>2024</i> |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | No. | <i>No.</i> |
| Teachers | 88 | 89 |
| Administration and support | 219 | 212 |
| Management | 10 | 9 |
| | <u>317</u> | <u>310</u> |

The average headcount expressed as full-time equivalents was:

| | 2025 | <i>2024</i> |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | No. | <i>No.</i> |
| Teachers | 76 | 76 |
| Administration and support | 141 | 135 |
| Management | 10 | 9 |
| | <u>227</u> | <u>220</u> |

c. Higher paid staff

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

| | 2025 | <i>2024</i> |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | No. | <i>No.</i> |
| In the band £60,001 - £70,000 | 1 | 3 |
| In the band £70,001 - £80,000 | 3 | 1 |
| In the band £80,001 - £90,000 | 1 | 1 |
| In the band £120,001 - £130,000 | - | 1 |
| In the band £130,001 - £140,000 | 1 | - |
| | <u>1</u> | <u>-</u> |

d. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £980,681 (*2024 - £812,810*).

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Notes to the financial statements
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13. Central services

The academy trust has provided the following central services to its academies during the year:

- Finance and audit
- HR and payroll
- Health and safety support and audit
- Legal support
- Clerking
- Estates management
- Employee benefit packages

The academy trust charges for these services on the following basis:

5% of pupil-led core funding, including Local Authority funding for Aspire School (for 2024 the charge also included 5% of the schools supplementary grant, which was funded separately in that year).

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

| | 2025 | <i>2024</i> |
|---------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Iwade School | 142,766 | <i>134,370</i> |
| Bobbing Village School | 47,961 | <i>45,593</i> |
| Aspire School | 202,426 | <i>169,261</i> |
| Grove Park Primary School | 96,446 | <i>88,776</i> |
| Total | 489,599 | <i>438,000</i> |

14. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One trustee has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the academy trust.

The CEO only receives remuneration in respect of services provided under her contract of employment. The remuneration and other benefits paid was as follows:

| | | 2025 | <i>2024</i> |
|----------------|----------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| | | £ | £ |
| Diane Browning | Remuneration | 130,000 - | <i>120,000 -</i> |
| | | 135,000 | <i>125,000</i> |
| | Pension contributions paid | 35,000 - 40,000 | <i>30,000 - 35,000</i> |

During the year ended 31 August 2025, no trustee expenses have been incurred (*2024 - £NIL*).

15. Trustees' and Officers' insurance

The academy trust has opted into the Department for Education's risk protection arrangement (RPA), an alternative to insurance where UK government funds cover losses that arise. This scheme protects trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on 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 membership.

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Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2025

16. Tangible fixed assets

| | Long-term leasehold land and buildings £ | Assets under construction £ | Furniture and equipment £ | Computer equipment £ | Total £ |
|---------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Cost or valuation | | | | | |
| At 1 September 2024 | 25,385,734 | 211,124 | 679,286 | 264,819 | 26,540,963 |
| Additions | 414,902 | 490,988 | 271,561 | 70,338 | 1,247,789 |
| Disposals | - | - | - | (60,205) | (60,205) |
| Transfers between classes | 98,423 | (211,124) | 112,701 | - | - |
| At 31 August 2025 | <u>25,899,059</u> | <u>490,988</u> | <u>1,063,548</u> | <u>274,952</u> | <u>27,728,547</u> |
| Depreciation | | | | | |
| At 1 September 2024 | 1,668,646 | - | 463,605 | 225,670 | 2,357,921 |
| Charge for the year | 421,198 | - | 126,825 | 20,495 | 568,518 |
| On disposals | - | - | - | (60,205) | (60,205) |
| At 31 August 2025 | <u>2,089,844</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>590,430</u> | <u>185,960</u> | <u>2,866,234</u> |
| Net book value | | | | | |
| At 31 August 2025 | <u><u>23,809,215</u></u> | <u><u>490,988</u></u> | <u><u>473,118</u></u> | <u><u>88,992</u></u> | <u><u>24,862,313</u></u> |
| At 31 August 2024 | <u><u>23,717,088</u></u> | <u><u>211,124</u></u> | <u><u>215,681</u></u> | <u><u>39,149</u></u> | <u><u>24,183,042</u></u> |

Included in land and buildings is leasehold land at valuation of £2,104,300 (2024 - £2,104,300) which is not depreciated.

17. Debtors

| | 2025 £ | 2024 £ |
|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Trade debtors | 1,390 | 3,793 |
| Other debtors | 116,683 | 53,506 |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 704,288 | 86,929 |
| | <u>822,361</u> | <u>144,228</u> |

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Notes to the financial statements
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18. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

| | 2025 | <i>2024</i> |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Other loans | 5,777 | 5,777 |
| Trade creditors | 222,905 | 295,345 |
| Other taxation and social security | 157,283 | 116,290 |
| Other creditors | 126,366 | 131,619 |
| Accruals and deferred income | 393,163 | 337,720 |
| | <u>905,494</u> | <u>886,751</u> |
| | 2025 | <i>2024</i> |
| | £ | £ |
| Deferred income at 1 September 2024 | 220,405 | 106,979 |
| Resources deferred during the year | 103,853 | 220,405 |
| Amounts released from previous periods | (220,405) | (106,979) |
| | <u>103,853</u> | <u>220,405</u> |

At the balance sheet date the academy trust was holding funds received in advance of the 2025/26 academic year for DfE UIFSM funding.

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

| | 2025 | <i>2024</i> |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Other loans | 12,670 | 18,447 |
| | <u>12,670</u> | <u>18,447</u> |

The aggregate amount of liabilities payable or repayable wholly or in part more than five years after the reporting date is:

| | 2025 | <i>2024</i> |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Payable or repayable by instalments | 1,144 | 2,288 |
| | <u>1,144</u> | <u>2,288</u> |

The academy trust took out a Salix loan in 2018 to fund improvement of the boilers at Iwade Primary School. The loan is interest free and due to be fully repaid in 2027.

An additional Salix loan was transferred to the trust when Grove Park Primary School joined on 1 September 2022. The loan is interest free and due to be fully repaid in 2031.

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20. Statement of funds

| | Balance at 1 September 2024 £ | Income £ | Expenditure £ | Transfers in/out £ | Gains/ (Losses) £ | Balance at 31 August 2025 £ |
|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Unrestricted funds | | | | | | |
| General fund | 1,492,102 | 499,023 | (312,619) | - | - | 1,678,506 |
| Restricted general funds | | | | | | |
| General Annual Grant (GAG) | 1,165,700 | 7,519,247 | (6,894,942) | (962,722) | - | 827,283 |
| Other DfE grants | 78,504 | 1,146,493 | (1,189,903) | - | - | 35,094 |
| Other government grants | - | 3,638,524 | (3,638,524) | - | - | - |
| Other restricted | 1,325 | 11,579 | (11,052) | - | - | 1,852 |
| Pension reserve | - | - | 269,000 | - | (269,000) | - |
| | <u>1,245,529</u> | <u>12,315,843</u> | <u>(11,465,421)</u> | <u>(962,722)</u> | <u>(269,000)</u> | <u>864,229</u> |
| Restricted fixed asset funds | | | | | | |
| Fixed assets | 24,183,042 | - | (605,235) | 1,284,506 | - | 24,862,313 |
| DfE capital grants | - | 476,107 | - | (392,829) | - | 83,278 |
| Designated capital projects | 378,491 | - | - | 65,268 | - | 443,759 |
| Salix loans | (24,224) | - | - | 5,777 | - | (18,447) |
| | <u>24,537,309</u> | <u>476,107</u> | <u>(605,235)</u> | <u>962,722</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>25,370,903</u> |
| Total Restricted funds | <u>25,782,838</u> | <u>12,791,950</u> | <u>(12,070,656)</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>(269,000)</u> | <u>26,235,132</u> |
| Total funds | <u><u>27,274,940</u></u> | <u><u>13,290,973</u></u> | <u><u>(12,383,275)</u></u> | <u><u>-</u></u> | <u><u>(269,000)</u></u> | <u><u>27,913,638</u></u> |

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

General Annual Grant (GAG) must be used for the normal running costs of the academy.

The other DfE fund is used to track core non-GAG grant money received from the DfE and connected bodies, and includes Pupil Premium, PE Sports premium, Universal Infant Free School Meals and other grants detailed in note 6.

The other government grants fund is used to track grants provided by government departments, including the Local Authority.

The pensions reserve is a restricted fund to account for movements in the Local Government Pension Scheme balance.

The restricted fixed asset funds are carried forward to meet the specific costs of fixed asset projects and to cover the depreciation

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20. Statement of funds (continued)

charges that will be required on these projects going forward and the current fixed assets held. The total transfer to the fund of £962,722 represents capital expenditure funded from revenue funds and the Salix loan repayments.

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

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

| | <i>Balance at 1 September 2023</i> | <i>Income</i> | <i>Expenditure</i> | <i>Transfers in/out</i> | <i>Gains/ (Losses)</i> | <i>Balance at 31 August 2024</i> |
|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Unrestricted funds | | | | | | |
| General fund | 1,267,346 | 457,273 | (232,517) | - | - | 1,492,102 |
| Restricted general funds | | | | | | |
| General Annual Grant (GAG) | 1,353,460 | 7,104,973 | (6,619,526) | (673,207) | - | 1,165,700 |
| Other DfE grants | 198,672 | 1,045,473 | (1,131,195) | (34,446) | - | 78,504 |
| Other government grants | - | 2,687,300 | (2,685,975) | - | - | 1,325 |
| Other restricted | 4,067 | 1,940 | (6,007) | - | - | - |
| Pension reserve | - | - | 268,000 | - | (268,000) | - |
| | <u>1,556,199</u> | <u>10,839,686</u> | <u>(10,174,703)</u> | <u>(707,653)</u> | <u>(268,000)</u> | <u>1,245,529</u> |
| Restricted fixed asset funds | | | | | | |
| Fixed assets | 24,154,574 | - | (664,574) | 693,042 | - | 24,183,042 |
| DfE capital grants | 369,889 | 18,600 | (18,831) | (369,658) | - | - |
| Designated capital projects | - | - | - | 378,491 | - | 378,491 |
| Salix loans | (30,002) | - | - | 5,778 | - | (24,224) |
| | <u>24,494,461</u> | <u>18,600</u> | <u>(683,405)</u> | <u>707,653</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>24,537,309</u> |
| Total Restricted funds | <u>26,050,660</u> | <u>10,858,286</u> | <u>(10,858,108)</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>(268,000)</u> | <u>25,782,838</u> |
| Total funds | <u><u>27,318,006</u></u> | <u><u>11,315,559</u></u> | <u><u>(11,090,625)</u></u> | <u><u>-</u></u> | <u><u>(268,000)</u></u> | <u><u>27,274,940</u></u> |

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20. Statement of funds (continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances for each academy and central are pooled, therefore a breakdown by academy is not included in these accounts.

Total cost analysis by academy

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

| | Teaching and educational support staff costs | Other support staff costs | Educational supplies | Other costs excluding depreciation | Total 2025 | <i>Total 2024</i> |
|---------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Iwade Primary School | 2,228,815 | 668,391 | 170,669 | 416,450 | 3,484,325 | 3,259,819 |
| Bobbing Village School | 701,607 | 213,860 | 72,572 | 162,319 | 1,150,358 | 1,135,214 |
| Aspire School | 3,076,215 | 857,924 | 186,917 | 259,208 | 4,380,264 | 3,595,922 |
| Grove Park Primary School | 1,555,960 | 546,049 | 134,907 | 317,746 | 2,554,662 | 2,246,858 |
| LGPS | - | (269,000) | - | - | (269,000) | (268,000) |
| Central services | 37,592 | 257,812 | 92,128 | 126,616 | 514,148 | 457,428 |
| Academy trust | 7,600,189 | 2,275,036 | 657,193 | 1,282,339 | 11,814,757 | 10,427,241 |

21. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

| | Unrestricted funds 2025 | Restricted funds 2025 | Restricted fixed asset funds 2025 | Total funds 2025 |
|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Tangible fixed assets | - | - | 24,862,313 | 24,862,313 |
| Current assets | 1,678,506 | 1,481,722 | 809,261 | 3,969,489 |
| Creditors due within one year | - | (617,493) | (288,001) | (905,494) |
| Creditors due in more than one year | - | - | (12,670) | (12,670) |
| Total | 1,678,506 | 864,229 | 25,370,903 | 27,913,638 |

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21. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

| | <i>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</i> | <i>Restricted funds 2024 £</i> | <i>Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £</i> | <i>Total funds 2024 £</i> |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| Tangible fixed assets | - | - | 24,183,042 | 24,183,042 |
| Current assets | 1,492,102 | 2,126,503 | 378,491 | 3,997,096 |
| Creditors due within one year | - | (880,974) | (5,777) | (886,751) |
| Creditors due in more than one year | - | - | (18,447) | (18,447) |
| Total | 1,492,102 | 1,245,529 | 24,537,309 | 27,274,940 |

22. Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities

| | 2025 £ | 2024 £ |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Net income for the year (as per Statement of financial activities) | 907,698 | 224,934 |
| Adjustments for: | | |
| Depreciation | 568,518 | 663,384 |
| Capital grants from DfE and other capital income | (476,107) | (18,600) |
| Interest receivable | (138,481) | (88,652) |
| Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable | (220,000) | (230,000) |
| Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost | (49,000) | (38,000) |
| (Increase)/decrease in debtors | (678,133) | 319,005 |
| Increase in creditors | 18,743 | 150,675 |
| (Profit)/loss on sale of tangible of assets | - | 1,190 |
| Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities | (66,762) | 983,936 |

23. Cash flows from financing activities

| | 2025 £ | 2024 £ |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Repayments of borrowing | (5,777) | (5,778) |
| Net cash used in financing activities | (5,777) | (5,778) |

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24. Cash flows from investing activities

| | 2025 | <i>2024</i> |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Dividends, interest and rents from investments | 138,481 | 88,652 |
| Purchase of tangible fixed assets | (1,247,789) | (693,042) |
| Capital grants from DfE and other capital income | 476,107 | 18,600 |
| Net cash used in investing activities | (633,201) | (585,790) |

25. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

| | 2025 | <i>2024</i> |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Cash in hand and at bank | 187,522 | 1,283,652 |
| Notice deposits | 2,959,606 | 2,569,216 |
| Total cash and cash equivalents | 3,147,128 | 3,852,868 |

26. Analysis of changes in net debt

| | At 1 September 2024 | Cash flows | Other non- cash changes | At 31 August 2025 |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 3,852,868 | (705,740) | - | 3,147,128 |
| Debt due within 1 year | (5,777) | 5,777 | (5,777) | (5,777) |
| Debt due after 1 year | (18,447) | - | 5,777 | (12,670) |
| | 3,828,644 | (699,963) | - | 3,128,681 |

27. Capital commitments

| | 2025 | <i>2024</i> |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Contracted for but not provided in these financial statements | | |
| Acquisition of tangible fixed assets | 83,278 | 238,352 |

The commitment will be funded from the unspent DfE capital funds at 31 August 2025, which are disclosed in the Statement of Funds (Note 20).

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28. Pension commitments

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 Kent County Council. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

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

Contributions amounting to £114,734 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2025 (2024 - £101,487) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

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)
- 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 revised employer contribution rate, arising from the 2020 valuation, has been implemented from 1 April 2024. The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2027.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £1,049,000 (2024 - £845,000).

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

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102, the TPS is an unfunded multi-employer pension scheme. The academy trust 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.

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28. Pension commitments (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2025 was £968,000 (2024 - £873,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £772,000 (2024 - £697,000) and employees' contributions totalled £196,000 (2024 - £176,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 22.5 per cent for employers and 5.5 to 12.5 per cent for employees.

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

Principal actuarial assumptions

| | 2025 | <i>2024</i> |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| | % | % |
| Rate of increase in salaries | 3.55 | 3.80 |
| Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation | 2.55 | 2.80 |
| Discount rate for scheme liabilities | 6.10 | 5.10 |
| Inflation assumption (CPI) | 2.55 | 2.80 |

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

| | 2025 | <i>2024</i> |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Years | Years |
| <i>Retiring today</i> | | |
| Males | 21.4 | 20.7 |
| Females | 23.7 | 23.3 |
| <i>Retiring in 20 years</i> | | |
| Males | 23.0 | 22.0 |
| Females | 25.4 | 24.7 |

Sensitivity analysis

| | 2025 | <i>2024</i> |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| | £000 | £000 |
| Discount rate +0.1% | (116) | (147) |
| Discount rate -0.1% | 119 | 152 |
| Mortality assumption - 1 year increase | 132 | 187 |
| Mortality assumption - 1 year decrease | (129) | (182) |
| CPI rate +0.1% | 119 | 150 |
| CPI rate -0.1% | (116) | (145) |

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28. Pension commitments (continued)

Share of scheme assets

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

| | At 31 August 2025 | <i>At 31 August 2024</i> |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Equities | 5,187,000 | 4,159,000 |
| Gilts | 458,000 | 509,000 |
| Corporate bonds | 1,252,000 | 1,058,000 |
| Property | 688,000 | 673,000 |
| Cash and other liquid assets | 246,000 | 177,000 |
| Investment funds | 433,000 | 369,000 |
| Infrastructure | 404,000 | 339,000 |
| Total market value of assets | 8,668,000 | 7,284,000 |

The actual return on scheme assets was £544,000 (2024 - £488,000).

The amounts recognised in the Statement of financial activities are as follows:

| | 2025 | <i>2024</i> |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Current service cost | (545,000) | (462,000) |
| Interest income | 393,000 | 339,000 |
| Interest cost | (344,000) | (301,000) |
| Administrative expenses | (7,000) | (5,000) |
| Total amount recognised in the Statement of financial activities | (503,000) | (429,000) |

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

| | 2025 | <i>2024</i> |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| At 1 September | 6,705,000 | 5,636,000 |
| Current service cost | 545,000 | 462,000 |
| Interest cost | 344,000 | 301,000 |
| Employee contributions | 196,000 | 176,000 |
| Actuarial (gains)/losses | (1,761,000) | 200,000 |
| Benefits paid | (121,000) | (70,000) |
| At 31 August | 5,908,000 | 6,705,000 |

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28. Pension commitments (continued)

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

| | 2025 | <i>2024</i> |
|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| At 1 September | 7,284,000 | 5,998,000 |
| Interest income | 393,000 | 339,000 |
| Actuarial gains | 151,000 | 149,000 |
| Employer contributions | 772,000 | 697,000 |
| Employee contributions | 196,000 | 176,000 |
| Benefits paid | (121,000) | (70,000) |
| Administration expenses | (7,000) | (5,000) |
| At 31 August | <u>8,668,000</u> | <u>7,284,000</u> |

As set out in note 2, the scheme surplus as at 31 August 2025 was £2,760,000 (2024 - £579,000), represented by the fair value of the assets less the fair value of the defined benefit obligations set out above. The trustees have considered it unlikely that a surplus being recognised would ever result in a repayment or reduction in contributions, given that such a surplus is probably only temporary. Therefore, the net surplus recognised within the financial statements has been restricted to £Nil.

29. Operating lease commitments

At 31 August 2025 the academy trust had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

| | 2025 | <i>2024</i> |
|--|---------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Not later than 1 year | 32,367 | 41,444 |
| Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years | 42,061 | 77,192 |
| | <u>74,428</u> | <u>118,636</u> |

30. Members' liability

Each member of the academy trust 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.

31. Controlling party

The academy trust is run by the management team on a day to day basis. Strategic decisions are made by the trustees. There is no ultimate controlling party.

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32. Related party transactions

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

The following related party transactions took place during the year:

Expenditure Related Party Transactions:

Pearson Education Ltd

N. Peterson, Chair of Trustees, is also an employee at Pearson Education Ltd. Pearson Education Ltd provided educational services to the Trust in the form of subscriptions. No service was directly provided by Pearson Education Ltd. The DfE were notified in advance of the transactions taking place. The subscription fees for the year totalled £5,579 (2024 - £2,017).

West Faversham Community Association

D. Browning, CEO, has a close family member who has a controlling interest in the above. The supplier was used to host the Year 6 leavers' event and climbing wall activities for Year 4 pupils, following a successful engagement in the prior year. The selection of supplier followed the standard procurement process, with no involvement from D. Browning. The total amount paid was £5,930 (2024 - £2,700).

Employment disclosures:

During the year, the following close family members of key management personnel were employed by the trust and paid a salary under an employment contract for their individual roles:

Mr. I. Stewart (cleaner) - husband of Mrs. K. Stewart, the headteacher at Iwade. Mr. Stewart's appointment was made in open competition and Mrs. Stewart was not involved in the decision-making process regarding appointment. Mr. Stewart is paid within the normal pay scale for his role and receives no special treatment as a result of his relationship with Mrs. Stewart.

T. Wood (Deputy CEO) - domestic companion of D. Browning, the CEO. Her job title was changed in 23/24 by the Trust Board due to the restructure from Trust expansion to reflect the role and responsibility she holds and to use a recognised title in education, along with other key personnel. This was benchmarked against similar roles. Her work is externally validated by external agencies and Trust reviews, as well as internal audits and Trust committees. Her performance management is undertaken solely by the Trust Board. She receives no special treatment or conditions.

Mrs. S. Mason (teaching assistant) - wife of Mr. S. Mason who is a Trustee. Mrs. Mason's appointment was made in open competition and Mr. S. Mason was not involved in the decision-making process regarding appointment. Mrs. Mason is paid within the normal pay scale for her role and receives no special treatment as a result of her relationship with Mr. Mason.