

MUSCLIFF PRIMARY SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025



MUSCLIFF PRIMARY SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members	D Constant J Pavely (resigned 2 March 2025) D Banks V Ladbrooke T Farwell (appointed 1 September 2024)
Trustees	S Fenby, Head Teacher D Banks, Co-Chair of Trustees J Cartwright, Co-Chair of Trustees L Ford (appointed 10 July 2025) J Hanafin J Harsh Udeshi M Tarrant (appointed 10 July 2025) A Towler (appointed 19 September 2024, resigned 31 July 2025)
Company registered number	09872386
Principal and registered office	Broadway Lane Throop Bournemouth Dorset BH8 0AB
Accounting officer	S Fenby
Senior management team	S Fenby, Head Teacher E Huns, Deputy Head Teacher B Lewis, Assistant Head Teacher L Andrews, Assistant Head Teacher
Independent auditors	Griffin Chartered Accountants Courtenay House Pynes Hill Exeter EX2 5AZ

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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 auditors' report of the charitable company for the 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 an academy for pupils aged 4 to 11 serving a catchment area in Bournemouth. It has a pupil capacity of 574 and had a roll of 567 in the school census on May 2025.

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

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

The charitable company's Memorandum of Association is the primary governing document of the academy.

The Trustees of Muscliff Primary School are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law.

The Academy Trust is known as Muscliff Primary School and is part of the umbrella trust, Bringing Schools Together.

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

b. Members' liability

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

c. Trustees' indemnities

The academy trust is a member of the Department for Education's Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA). The RPA provides a qualifying third-party indemnity provision for the benefit of the trustees/governors, through its Governors' Liability cover. This was in place throughout the year and remains in place at the date of approval of this report. The cover provides protection against certain liabilities arising from the performance of their duties, subject to the terms and limits of the RPA membership rules (currently £10 million any one loss and in the aggregate per membership year).

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

Structure, governance and management (continued)

d. Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

The management of the academy is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Articles of Association.

Article 45 of the Articles of Association state that the number of trustees shall not be less than three but shall not be subject to a maximum.

Subject to Articles 48-49 and 53, the Academy Trust shall have the following Trustees: up to six Trustees, appointed under Article 50; and a minimum of three Parent Trustees.

The Academy Trust may also have any Co-opted Trustee appointed under Article 58.

e. Policies adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

The training and induction provided for new Trustees includes a tour of the Academy and a chance to meet staff and pupils. Trustees are made aware of training courses and conferences by the clerk to the governors and via Bournemouth CPD. All Trustees are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake in their role as a Trustee. As there are normally only one or two new Trustees a year, induction tends to be done informally and is tailored specifically to the individual.

f. Organisational structure

The Academy has a leadership structure which consists of the Trustees, the Senior Leadership Team and the Wider Leadership Team. The aim of the leadership structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels. The Head Teacher is the Accounting Officer.

The Trustees are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual plan and budget, approving the statutory accounts, monitoring the Academy by the use of budgets and other data and making major decisions about the direction of the Academy and capital expenditure.

The SLT consists of the Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teachers, Assistant Head Teachers and the School Business Manager. The SLT controls the Academy at an executive level implementing the policies laid down by the Trustees and reporting back to them. The Head Teacher, the School Business Manager, and Finance Committee are responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets. The Head Teacher is responsible for the appointment of staff.

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

The Finance Committee, known as the Resources Management Committee, makes decisions on pay awards for all staff within the Academy. Teaching staff are currently in line with the national terms and conditions of pay as provided by the Department of Education. Support staff are also currently paid in line with national guidelines.

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

Structure, governance and management (continued)

h. Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

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

Percentage of time spent on facility time

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

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time **£**

Total cost of facility time	-
Total pay bill	3,115,954
Percentage of total pay bill spent on facility time	- %

Paid trade union activities

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

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Objectives and activities

a. Objects and aims

The school leaders are relentless in their pursuit of excellence, continually looking to improve the high levels of academic achievement. The school leaders and trustees evaluate its effectiveness well and consequently have a good understanding of the school's strengths and areas of improvement. There is a strong focus on continually improving teaching and learning, with a focus on a CPD programme of strategies over the past year.

The quality of leadership and management at all levels across all areas of the school's work is good and is improving further.

A broad and balanced curriculum meets the pupils needs well, promoting a thirst for knowledge, and particularly a love of reading through carefully planned use of high-quality texts.

The Board of Trustees effectively undertakes its statutory duties. Trustees manage and scrutinise the school's finances regularly, ensuring that the funding is spent wisely and contributing to pupil outcomes. Staff and resources are deployed efficiently to benefit all groups of pupils. Trustees are highly supportive of the Headteacher and the staff, while also resolutely holding leaders to account.

The school's vision:

- Our school is a place where staff, directors and parents actively work together to ensure all children receive an engaging, ambitious, rich curriculum to inspire thinking and promote deep sustainable learning.
- Children become lifelong learners, aspiring to high standards of achievement in all areas of their life.
- Children are supported through a strong set of enduring values which will provide the solid foundation for children as they discover their own individual role and responsibilities within the wider world: responsibility, resilience, curiosity, aspiration and kindness.

Our school aims:

- To provide a creative, stimulating and inclusive environment in which everyone can feel safe and flourish socially and academically.
- To enable all children to apply themselves to all tasks they engage with self-confidence and independence.
- To provide a safe and well-led school that nurtures all individuals in their journey to achieve their unique potential.
- To foster a spirit of independence, intellectual inquiry and mastery of skills and understanding in all learners.
- To work closely with parents within their role as first educators of their child and as part of a collaborative school community.
- To have high expectations for all within our community to ensure that we demonstrate the very best standards of conduct, moral purpose and integrity.
- To promote positive social and emotional wellbeing (mental health) and resilience for children, staff and our community.
- To acknowledge, accept and learn from mistakes; to embrace a growth mindset.

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

Objectives and activities (continued)

b. Objectives, strategies and activities

The school development priorities for 2024/25 were:

- Continual review of the curriculum to ensure a dynamic response to our ever-changing needs, whilst ensuring continued links to the school values.
- Define high quality inclusion practice and enhance the quality of day-to-day provision within the classroom setting, particularly considering our approach to neurodiversity and our offer for those children with an EHCP.
- Continue to build on phonics succession through CPD (for KS2 and those members of staff new to the school) and ensure that high quality phonics intervention supports the lowest 20% in YR and Y1.
- Ensure consistency in our approach to mathematics across the whole school.
- Use collaboration to improve the quality of our communication and make concrete our understanding of our key approaches to Teaching and Learning.
- Adapt to 2 form entry whilst maintaining high quality provision and adult interactions.

c. Public benefit

At Muscliff Primary School, we are committed to ensuring that all of our activities and services are undertaken with the primary aim of furthering our charitable purposes for the public benefit. Our objectives are focused on providing high-quality education and support to the children of our local community, promoting their personal development, well-being, and academic success.

In the 2024/25 academic year, Muscliff Primary School has undertaken a range of activities and initiatives that further our charitable purposes, ensuring the school continues to serve the needs of the local community. These activities have included:

1. **Educational Excellence:** We have maintained a strong commitment to providing a broad and balanced curriculum that supports the academic development of all students, ensuring that every child, regardless of background or ability, has the opportunity to reach their full potential.
2. **Support for Vulnerable Pupils:** Recognising the diverse needs of our students, we have provided targeted support for those who may be at risk of underachievement or who require additional pastoral care. This includes tailored interventions, extra-curricular activities and mental health support to ensure every child can thrive, e.g. counselling/ play therapy, Roots parenting course for parents, and employing a part time Education Social Worker.
3. **Inclusive School Environment:** We have actively worked to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for all students, fostering a culture of respect, diversity, and equality. This includes initiatives that promote diversity awareness (through assemblies), anti-bullying campaign, and ensuring access to learning for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), e.g. extracurricular clubs, opportunities for sports, NSPCC workshops.
4. **Community Engagement:** Muscliff Primary School has maintained strong links with the local community through school events, and partnerships with local organizations, e.g. Bournemouth Foodbank. We believe that a close relationship with the community enhances the experience of our pupils and provides real-world connections that enrich their learning.
5. **Environmental and Sustainability Initiatives:** We have implemented initiatives to promote environmental awareness and sustainability. Our eco-school program encourages students to take an active role in environmental projects and understand the importance of caring for their local and global environment, e.g. LED lighting, solar panels, recycling of waste.

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Objectives and activities (continued)

In all these activities, the trustees have ensured that the school's operations align with the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. We are committed to ensuring that our work benefits the wider community and provides value to the public, particularly in terms of accessible, inclusive, and high-quality education.

d. Compliance with Charity Commission's Public Benefit Guidance

In setting our objectives and planning our activities, the trustees have carefully considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, as published on their website. We are satisfied that our actions and decisions are in line with the guidance, ensuring that our services are available to all children in the community, with particular attention to those who may face barriers to accessing education or achieving their potential.

We confirm that we have exercised due regard to the public benefit requirements and will continue to do so in future planning, ensuring that the activities of Muscliff Primary School benefit the public, particularly through the provision of high-quality education and support to all students.

Achievements and performance

a. Achievements and performance

EYFS GLD 58%

Y1 phonics 79%

Y2 phonics 93%

Y4 MTC: The % children achieving full marks in the multiplication check at the end of year for increased in 2025 to 46% from 31% in 2024; above predicted national outcomes this year.

End KS2:

Reading 84%, GDS 40%

Writing 80%, GDS 16%

Maths 82%, GDS 34%

RWM combined 70%, GDS 13%

b. Going concern

In addition to inflationary pressures every school needs to cover the costs of staffing increments in a challenging recruitment and retention period. Additionally, we are seeing steadily increasing levels of special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and Education, Health and Care plans (EHCPs), which are not fully funded. Thirdly demographic reductions provide fewer pupils, and therefore less income, as the school age population continues to decline yet school costs are not linearly related to pupil headcount. The school is taking proactive measures to secure its continued operation as a going concern. The reduction in its Published Admission Number (PAN), will subsequently have an impact on the General Annual Grant (GAG) funding in the following year.

To address this challenge and safeguard the school's operational stability, we have prudently accumulated sufficient reserves. These reserves serve as a financial cushion that will enable us to navigate the forthcoming funding changes without compromising the quality of education and the support we provide to our pupils.

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Achievements and performance (continued)

Our commitment to maintaining a robust financial foundation underscores our dedication to the long-term success of the school, ensuring that we can continue to deliver an exceptional educational experience despite the evolving financial landscape.

In addition to accumulating reserves, the school is implementing several other measures to ensure financial stability:

- **Cost Management:** We are closely monitoring and managing our expenses to ensure that we are operating efficiently. This includes reviewing contracts, reducing non-essential expenditures, and seeking cost-effective solutions for necessary services and supplies.
- **Diversifying Income Streams:** The school is exploring alternative sources of income, such as renting out all facilities, organising fundraising events, and applying for grants.
- **Staffing Adjustments:** We are carefully planning our staffing needs to align with the reduced PAN. This may involve adjusting staff hours, reassigning roles, or implementing a hiring freeze for non-essential positions to maintain a balanced budget.
- **Resource Optimisation:** We are optimising the use of our resources to ensure that we are getting the most value from our investments. This includes leveraging technology to enhance learning and administrative efficiency.
- **Community Engagement:** Engaging with our community, including parents and local businesses, to build strong partnerships and support networks. This can lead to additional resources and opportunities for the school.
- **Long-term Financial Planning:** Developing and regularly updating a long-term financial plan to anticipate future challenges and opportunities. This helps us to be proactive rather than reactive in our financial management.

c. Key Performance Indicators

End of KS2 outcomes are in line with or above national outcomes (projected)
The school had an Ofsted Inspection in May 2024: good in all areas.

Financial review

Most of the Academy's income is obtained from the Department of Education (DfE) in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE during the year can be seen in the Statement of Financial Activities.

During the 12 months to 31 August 2025 the Academy received a total revenue income of £3,559,518 and incurred revenue expenditure of £3,553,031 (excluding the pension reserve). There was an overall revenue surplus in year of £24,899. The level of free reserves carried forward are £281,171.

During the 2024/25 financial year, Muscliff Primary School faced a number of financial challenges, primarily driven by the decision to reduce the school's Published Admission Number (PAN). This reduction has led to a decrease in the General Annual Grant (GAG) funding we expect to receive in 2025/26. Despite this, we have worked hard to manage our resources efficiently, ensuring that we maintain high standards of education for our students while responding to the evolving financial landscape.

One of the key financial events impacting our performance this year was the strategic decision to reduce staffing costs through voluntary redundancies. We also implemented a series of cost-saving measures, including cutting non-essential expenditures, renegotiating contracts, eliminating unnecessary software subscriptions, and

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adopting a more cost-effective approach to purchasing and resource management. These steps have contributed to notable savings, which have partially offset the funding shortfall caused by the reduced PAN.

The majority of the Trust's income is derived from the Department for Education (DfE) in the form of recurring grants, which are earmarked for specific purposes. Additionally, the Academy engages in supplementary activities, such as renting out school facilities to the public, to generate extra revenue in support of our educational objectives. DfE funding is subject to a lag and is based on the pupil numbers from the previous autumn census.

The primary objective of the Academy's reserves policy is to ensure the school's operational stability and to safeguard its ability to adapt swiftly in the face of challenging financial situations. The Academy maintains reserves for several purposes.

a. Reserves policy

The trustees of Muscliff Primary School are committed to maintaining a responsible and transparent reserves policy, ensuring that the academy trust remains financially stable and able to meet its ongoing operational needs, as well as future strategic objectives. The Trustees have identified that an appropriate level of reserves for the school is £275,000. This level of reserves is deemed necessary to ensure the school's operational stability (one month's salary) and to provide financial cushion in the face of challenging financial situations.

b. Material Investments Policy

Muscliff Primary School does not hold significant investments. Any surplus funds are placed in low-risk, interest-bearing accounts to maintain liquidity and ensure that funds are available when needed. While we do not currently take social, environmental, or ethical considerations into account in our investment strategy, we are open to reviewing this policy in future as we grow and develop.

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c. Principal risks and uncertainties

The principal risks facing Muscliff Primary School are directly related to our funding and the ongoing economic pressures within the education sector. A reduction in our PAN, alongside inflationary pressures on staffing, utilities, and materials, presents a challenge to our financial sustainability. In addition, changes in government funding policies, particularly those affecting the GAG, are unpredictable and could further strain our financial position in the coming years.

To manage these risks, we have developed a comprehensive financial strategy that includes:

- **Careful Monitoring of Expenditure:** We continue to review all spending closely and implement cost-cutting measures where possible to ensure we stay within budget.
- **Income Diversification:** We are actively exploring alternative funding sources, including renting out school facilities and engaging in fundraising activities, to reduce our reliance on government funding. The school has also prioritised applying for funding through Education Health Care plans for children who need additional support.
- **Prudent Reserves Management:** Our reserves have been slightly reduced during the year as we have used them to cover some of the shortfall in funding. However, we are confident that our ongoing cost-saving efforts will help replenish these reserves over time.

Key Factors Affecting Future Financial Performance:

Looking ahead, several factors will continue to shape the school's financial performance:

- **Reduction in PAN:** The full impact of the reduction in our Published Admission Number will continue to affect the school's revenue in the short-to-medium term. We will need to adjust our staffing and resource allocation to reflect this decrease in student numbers.
- **Government Funding:** Any changes to the national or local funding model, especially in relation to GAG grants, will significantly affect our financial position. We remain vigilant about potential changes in funding policy.
- **Cost Pressures:** Increased costs for utilities, staffing, and educational materials will continue to challenge our ability to maintain a balanced budget. Our proactive measures to reduce costs, such as renegotiating contracts and eliminating non-essential services, will help mitigate some of these pressures.
- **SEND provision:** High level of need and increased costs of ensuring needs of children are met, with and without EHCPs where additional budget from BCP does not cover the cost of employing staff to support individual children.

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Key Risks and Uncertainties

1. Reduced Pupil Numbers and Funding

One of the most significant risks facing the school is the reduction in the Published Admission Number (PAN), which has already had an impact on our pupil numbers and is expected to reduce our General Annual Grant (GAG) funding in 2025/26. A lower intake affects overall funding, which in turn impacts our ability to maintain staffing levels and support services.

Mitigation:

- i. Close monitoring of pupil admissions and targeted marketing to maintain strong engagement with the local community.
- ii. Restructuring staffing through voluntary redundancies and natural turnover.
- iii. Implementation of cost-saving measures to maintain financial sustainability despite reduced income.

2. Cost Inflation and Budget Pressures

Inflationary increases in utilities, staffing costs, and educational resources continue to pose a challenge. These pressures can result in budget shortfalls if not carefully managed.

Mitigation:

- i. Ongoing contract reviews and renegotiation (e.g. printer contracts, software licences).
- ii. 'Best-buy' procurement strategy to reduce non-essential spending.
- iii. Careful budget planning and close monitoring of monthly expenditure.

3. Pension Liabilities

The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) continues to represent a long-term financial risk due to actuarial deficits. While this does not affect short-term cash flow, it contributes to the trust's overall liabilities and must be managed prudently.

Mitigation:

- i. Regular liaison with the pension provider to ensure contributions are sustainable.
- ii. Full recognition of pension liability in financial planning and reporting.

4. Estate Management and Compliance

Ensuring that the school's buildings and estate are safe, well-maintained, and compliant with statutory regulations remains a key risk. Failure to do so could pose a health and safety risk, damage the trust's reputation, and potentially lead to legal or regulatory penalties.

Mitigation:

- i. Regular premises checks and ongoing maintenance schedules.
- ii. Use of professional surveys and compliance audits to identify and address risks early.
- iii. Budget allocation for reactive and preventative maintenance to ensure the estate remains safe and fit for purpose.

5. Reputational Risk

As a community-focused primary school, reputation is critical. Negative publicity, safeguarding failures, or underperformance could impact parental confidence and future admissions.

Mitigation:

- i. Robust safeguarding procedures and regular staff training.
- ii. Transparent communication with stakeholders.
- iii. Continuous self-evaluation and external reviews to maintain high educational standards.

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

6. Staffing and Recruitment

Maintaining a high-quality, stable workforce is a growing challenge in the education sector. Recruitment and retention of skilled staff, particularly in specialist roles, can impact continuity and quality of provision.

Mitigation:

- i. Workforce planning aligned with financial forecasts and school improvement priorities.
- ii. Investment in professional development and staff wellbeing.
- iii. Flexible staffing models to respond to fluctuations in pupil numbers and budget.

d. Risk Management Process

Muscliff Primary School operates a formal risk management framework that is reviewed regularly by the trustees. The risk register is updated to reflect emerging risks and changing circumstances and is considered during all major strategic and financial decisions. Risks are categorised by severity and likelihood and are assigned clear mitigation strategies, timelines, and responsible persons.

The trustees remain committed to robust governance, prudent financial management, and continuous improvement in order to ensure the trust's long-term viability, compliance, and educational success.

Fundraising

The school is actively engaged in fundraising efforts through various channels, including sponsored events and organised gatherings like the Summer and Christmas Fayres. These initiatives aim to generate funds for special projects that directly benefit our pupils. In recent years, the school faced challenges due to the absence of a formal Parents' Association. However, the Parents' Association has now started to grow, with four dedicated volunteers running the charity. As the team of volunteers expands, the school hopes to raise more funds. Importantly, we do not enlist the services of professional fundraisers or commercial participators for these activities.

Our approach to fundraising aligns closely with the recognised standards set forth by the Charity Commission, ensuring transparency and ethical practices. We take pride in maintaining a respectful and non-intrusive approach to fundraising, never applying undue pressure on our school community to make donations. Furthermore, we are pleased to report that we have not received any complaints related to our fundraising activities. This underscores our commitment to conducting fundraising in a responsible and community-sensitive manner, allowing us to continue supporting valuable projects that enhance the educational experience of our pupils.

Plans for future periods

The school is pleased with most of the July 2025 outcomes and will continue to work hard to improve to ensure data is matched/ improves each year.

The school made good progress with the previous year's School Development plan and will continue to work on several key aspects into 2025-26, including development of the Curriculum, focus on professional growth for all staff, and raising standards in phonics and writing. The school was pleased with the Ofsted Inspection outcomes in 2024, and in agreement with the identified actions.

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Funds held as custodian on behalf of others

No funds are held as custodian on behalf of others.

Disclosure of information to auditors

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

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

The Trustees' report was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 3 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

David Banks

.....
D Banks

Co-Chair of Trustees

Jo Cartwright

.....
J Cartwright

Co-Chair of Trustees

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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Scope of responsibility

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

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

The board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Head Teacher, as accounting officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Muscliff Primary School and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' report and in the Statement of trustees' responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met 6 times during the year.

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

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
S Fenby, Head Teacher	6	6
D Banks, Co-Chair of Trustees	6	6
J Cartwright, Co-Chair of Trustees	6	6
L Ford	0	0
J Hanafin	6	6
J Harsh Udeshi	6	6
M Tarrant	1	1
A Towler	3	6

New Co-Chairs were elected at the start of last year. During the year an additional two parent governors joined the board. The board have worked hard to recruit new nonparent governors, but have been unsuccessful so far.

The trust board has diligently covered a wide spectrum of responsibilities over the past year. This includes regular meetings to oversee financial matters, strategic planning, and policy development. The board has also actively engaged with various committees, such as the audit and finance committees, to ensure comprehensive coverage of its work. Furthermore, the board has been actively involved in overseeing the performance of our school, reviewing their educational outcomes, and monitoring their compliance with regulatory requirements. The board is also actively involved in the maintenance and monitoring of the School Risk Register. The Risk committee meets 3 times per Academic Year. The board's performance, including assessment of its own effectiveness and any particular challenges that have arisen (See the below statement).

The board conducted a comprehensive assessment of its own effectiveness during the year. This assessment involved a self-evaluation process, which encompassed individual board member evaluations, peer reviews, and an overall evaluation of board processes. The results of this assessment were positive, highlighting the board's strengths in strategic thinking, governance processes, and collaboration. However, the assessment also identified areas for improvement, particularly in enhancing board diversity and succession planning. There also remains the ongoing difficulty of Governor recruitment, which as a Governing Body we are not alone in.

Information about the quality of the data used by the board, and why the board finds it acceptable.

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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Governance (continued)

The trust board relies on a variety of data sources to inform its decision-making processes. The data used is considered of high quality due to rigorous validation processes and data integrity checks. The board finds this data acceptable for several reasons:

Accuracy and Reliability: Data is sourced from trusted and reputable institutions, including government agencies, accredited research organisations, and internal reporting systems. The data collection processes are subject to regular audits to ensure accuracy and reliability.

Consistency: Data sources and reporting formats have remained consistent over time, enabling the board to track trends and make meaningful comparisons across reporting periods.

Timeliness: Data is updated and made available in a timely manner, allowing the board to react promptly to emerging issues and trends.

Transparency: Data sources and methodologies are transparent, and any discrepancies or anomalies are thoroughly investigated and addressed.

Expert Analysis: The board benefits from the expertise of internal and external scrutiny audits ensuring it is used effectively in decision-making processes.

Conflicts of Interests

The Board maintains an up to date and complete register of interests. This information is used in the day to day management and governance of the academy trust at each board meeting. Trustees are required to declare any continuing conflicts of interest that they have on the register of interests. This is requested at the start of each meeting. Where there is an item on the agenda in which a trustee has a conflict of interest, they declare this at the start of the meeting and withdraw from that part of the meeting or process.

Governance Reviews

The board has worked as an effective team, using a good balance of skills, experience, and knowledge to make informed decisions throughout the year. Despite the circumstances around the pandemic, the board has maintained a rigorous approach in addressing its roles and responsibilities in a collective and confident manner. The board has continued to meet regularly throughout the year to ensure its continued effectiveness of support and challenge to the Academy.

New Trustees have received an appropriately resourced induction when they have joined and have been supported by the Chair, Governance Professional and a Trustee mentor to settle into the role. The board has reviewed its own performance and has considered the balance of skills, experience and knowledge, its diversity, how the board works together and other factors that affect its effectiveness.

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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Governance (continued)

The Finance and Risk Committee is a sub-committee of the main board of Trustees. Its purpose is to exercise statutory duties and powers delegated by the full Board of Trustees.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
J Cartwright	6	6
D Banks	6	6
J Hanafin	6	6
S Fenby	6	6
L Ford	1	1
M Tarrant	1	1
A Towler	3	5

Review of value for money

Saving money while improving outcomes for pupils in a UK primary school is a challenging yet essential goal.

Here are some examples of cost-effective strategies that the school implemented:

Energy Efficiency: Implemented energy-saving LED lighting. Educated staff and pupils about the importance of energy conservation.

Shared Resources: Collaborated with other schools in the Trust to share best practices. Organised joint training sessions, such as First Aid and Fire Marshall training, to reduce costs and improve the quality of education.

Digitalization: Transitioned the school office towards a paperless environment. Utilised digital tools for communication, record-keeping, and administrative tasks to reduce printing and paper costs.

Efficient Staffing: Adjusted staffing levels by assessing pupil-to-teacher ratios. Redeployed staff to cover sickness. Employed 'internal supply' staff to save costs from external agencies.

Bulk Purchasing: Purchased supplies in bulk to benefit from discounts and reduce per-unit costs. Coordinated with other schools in the Trust for joint procurement to leverage better pricing.

Volunteer Programs: Encouraged parent and community volunteer programs to support various school activities and events, reducing the need for paid staff.

Grant Applications: Is actively seeking and applying for grants to fund specific projects and initiatives, reducing the reliance on the school's budget.

Curriculum Enrichment: Utilised free or low-cost resources and programs to enrich the curriculum, such as online educational platforms.

Maintenance Scheduling: Implemented a proactive maintenance schedule to prevent costly emergency repairs and extend the lifespan of school facilities and equipment.

Eco-Friendly Initiatives: Introduced recycling programs and eco-friendly practices to reduce waste and associated disposal costs.

By implementing these strategies, the school not only saves money but also enhances the educational

MUSCLIFF PRIMARY SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Review of value for money (continued)

experience for pupils, ensuring that resources are used effectively and efficiently.

The purpose of the finance and risk committee

The purpose of the finance committee at Muscliff Primary school is to oversee and manage the financial aspects of the school's operations. This committee plays a crucial role in ensuring that the school's finances are effectively and responsibly managed to support its educational goals and objectives. The key purposes and responsibilities of the finance committee are:

Budgeting: The finance committee is responsible for developing and monitoring the school's budget. This includes working with the school leadership team to allocate funds to various departments and programs, ensuring that resources are used efficiently.

Financial Planning: The committee helps in long-term financial planning, considering factors such as anticipated changes in pupil enrolment, staffing needs, and infrastructure improvements. This helps the school make informed financial decisions and allocate resources strategically.

Financial Oversight: The finance committee ensures that the school's financial transactions are conducted in accordance with established policies, procedures, and legal requirements, including the Trust Financial Handbook. This involves reviewing financial statements, invoices, and financial reports to identify any irregularities or discrepancies.

Fundraising: If the school engages in fundraising activities, the finance committee may be involved in planning and overseeing these efforts. They may also help establish guidelines for how funds raised through fundraising activities should be used to benefit the school.

Risk Management: The committee assesses financial risks that the school may face and develops strategies to mitigate them. This includes identifying potential financial challenges and proposing solutions to address them.

Financial Reporting: The finance committee is responsible for reviewing the regular financial updates provided by the SBM to the school's governing body.

Compliance: Ensuring compliance with financial regulations and guidelines is a key responsibility of the finance committee. This includes adherence to government funding requirements, tax regulations, and auditing standards.

Resource Allocation: The committee helps prioritise how funds are allocated to support educational programs, staffing, and capital improvements, keeping in mind the school's overall mission and goals.

Strategic Financial Advice: The finance committee may provide advice and recommendations to the school's leadership on financial matters, helping them make informed decisions that align with the school's mission and objectives.

Transparency: Maintaining transparency in financial matters is essential. The finance committee may be responsible for making financial information accessible to relevant stakeholders, such as parents, staff, and the wider community.

MUSCLIFF PRIMARY SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Capacity to handle risk

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

The risk and control framework

The system of internal control plays a vital role in the governance framework of the school, designed to ensure efficient operations, safeguard assets, and maintain the accuracy and reliability of financial information. Its main purpose is to minimize both financial and operational risks while providing reasonable assurance to stakeholders, including Trustees, that the school's objectives are being met effectively.

When Trustees confirm the existence of an internal control system, their statement typically affirms that:

- The system of internal control was in place throughout the year under review and up until the approval of the financial statements.
- The system was designed and implemented to manage specific risks and objectives relevant to the school.
- The Trustees have reviewed the system's effectiveness and find it adequate and functioning as intended.
- Any identified material control weaknesses have been addressed, or appropriate corrective actions are underway.

The internal scrutiny function is a key component of the internal control framework. This function often involves internal auditors who independently assess the effectiveness of internal controls, risk management practices, and adherence to policies and procedures. Internal auditors are chosen for this role due to their objectivity, independence, and expertise in evaluating control systems. They offer an impartial perspective on the school's operations and provide recommendations for improvement.

The work internal auditors or reviewers may be tasked with includes:

- Reviewing financial transactions and records to ensure accuracy and compliance with accounting standards.
- Evaluating the effectiveness of internal controls in mitigating risks.
- Assessing compliance with laws, regulations, and internal policies.
- Identifying weaknesses in controls or significant risks to the school.
- Recommending enhancements to the internal control processes.

If the internal auditors identify material control issues, the school will take necessary corrective actions, such as:

- Implementing new controls or reinforcing existing ones.
- Providing additional training to staff to ensure compliance with procedures.
- Assigning oversight responsibility for specific areas of control.
- Conducting follow-up reviews to ensure the effectiveness of the corrective measures.

The ultimate goal is to address any control deficiencies and ensure that the internal control system remains effective in safeguarding the school's assets and supporting its objectives. Trustees are kept informed of any material issues and the steps taken to resolve them, promoting transparency and accountability within the school.

The Board of Trustees has decided to employ Carter & Coley as internal auditor.

MUSCLIFF PRIMARY SCHOOL
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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

The risk and control framework (continued)

The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial and other matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy Trust's financial systems.

An agreed programme of checks for the financial year 2024/25 was completed and during the year the financial procedures were reviewed. The work done included:

- Inspecting accounting records, bank statements, invoices, orders, delivery notes and petty cash to ensure transactions are accurate and properly authorised.
- Testing samples of expense claims to confirm they're valid, correctly recorded, and supported by documentation.
- Review major contracts to ensure formal tendering procedures exist.

No significant issues were reported.

On an annual basis Carter & Coley prepare a 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.

Review of effectiveness

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

- The financial management and governance self-assessment process.
- The work of the executive managers within the Academy who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- The work of the external auditors.

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

Conclusion

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

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

David Banks

Jo Cartwright

S Fenby

.....
D Banks
Co-Chair of Trustees

.....
Sarah Fenby
Accounting Officer

MUSCLIFF PRIMARY SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

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

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

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



S Fenby
Accounting Officer
Date: 20/11/2025

MUSCLIFF PRIMARY SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the 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 DfE have been applied for the purposes intended.

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 3 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

David Banks

.....
D Banks
Co-Chair of Trustees

Jo Cartwright

.....
J Cartwright
Co-Chair of Trustees

MUSCLIFF PRIMARY SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF
MUSCLIFF PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Muscliff Primary School (the 'academy') 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'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 2023 to 2024 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 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'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.

MUSCLIFF PRIMARY SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' report has 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 and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters 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 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'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 or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

MUSCLIFF PRIMARY SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

Our audit procedures have been reviewed for evidence of management override, any ongoing legal cases, completeness of related party transactions, as well as an ongoing consideration of fraud and irregularities during the whole audit process.

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



Misty Nickells FCA (Senior statutory auditor)

for and on behalf of

Griffin

Statutory Auditor

Courtenay House

Pynes Hill

Exeter

EX2 5AZ

Date: 4 December 2025

MUSCLIFF PRIMARY SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 26 September 2023 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 Muscliff Primary School during the year 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 have not been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of Muscliff Primary School's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Muscliff Primary School's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 30 November 2015 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 Accountants of Academy Trusts issued by DfE. We performed a limited assurance engagement as defined in our engagement letter.

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw our conclusion includes:

- Review of governance procedures
- Evaluation and testing of the system of internal controls, such as authorisation and value for money procedures
- Substantive testing on relevant transactions

MUSCLIFF PRIMARY SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

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 or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.



Reporting Accountant
Griffin
Statutory Auditor
Courtenay House
Pynes Hill
Exeter
EX2 5AZ

Date: 4 December 2025

MUSCLIFF PRIMARY SCHOOL
(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	33,742	6,235	10,514	50,491	67,200
Other trading activities		102,074	-	-	102,074	83,960
Investments	6	179	-	-	179	72
Charitable activities		24,939	3,392,349	-	3,417,288	3,240,545
Total income		160,934	3,398,584	10,514	3,570,032	3,391,777
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds		74,636	-	-	74,636	83,010
Charitable activities	7	61,399	3,396,996	151,306	3,609,701	3,617,178
Total expenditure		136,035	3,396,996	151,306	3,684,337	3,700,188
Net income/(expenditure)		24,899	1,588	(140,792)	(114,305)	(308,411)
Transfers between funds	16	-	18,412	(18,412)	-	-
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)		24,899	20,000	(159,204)	(114,305)	(308,411)
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	23	-	290,000	-	290,000	72,000
Net movement in funds		24,899	310,000	(159,204)	175,695	(236,411)
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		256,272	(310,000)	6,555,041	6,501,313	6,737,724
Net movement in funds		24,899	310,000	(159,204)	175,695	(236,411)
Total funds carried forward		281,171	-	6,395,837	6,677,008	6,501,313

MUSCLIFF PRIMARY SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

The Statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 32 to 58 form part of these financial statements.

MUSCLIFF PRIMARY SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 09872386

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	6,394,406	6,545,712
		<u>6,394,406</u>	<u>6,545,712</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	14	96,748	51,474
Cash at bank and in hand		408,954	468,464
		<u>505,702</u>	<u>519,938</u>
Current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(223,100)	(254,337)
		<u>282,602</u>	<u>265,601</u>
Net current assets		<u>282,602</u>	<u>265,601</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>6,677,008</u>	<u>6,811,313</u>
Net assets excluding pension asset / liability		<u>6,677,008</u>	<u>6,811,313</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme asset / liability	23	-	(310,000)
Total net assets		<u><u>6,677,008</u></u>	<u><u>6,501,313</u></u>
Funds of the academy			
Restricted funds:			
Fixed asset funds	16	6,395,837	6,555,041
Restricted funds excluding pension asset	16	6,395,837	6,555,041
Pension reserve	16	-	(310,000)
Total restricted funds	16	<u>6,395,837</u>	<u>6,245,041</u>
Unrestricted income funds	16	<u>281,171</u>	<u>256,272</u>
Total funds		<u><u>6,677,008</u></u>	<u><u>6,501,313</u></u>

MUSCLIFF PRIMARY SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 09872386

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025

The financial statements on pages 27 to 58 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 03 December 2025 and are signed on their behalf, by:

David Banks

.....
D Banks
Co-Chair of Trustees

J Cartwright

.....
J Cartwright
Co-Chair of Trustees

MUSCLIFF PRIMARY SCHOOL
(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 operating activities	18	(70,024)	(237,615)
Cash flows from investing activities	19	10,514	(17,293)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(59,510)	(254,908)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		468,464	723,372
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	20, 21	<u>408,954</u>	<u>468,464</u>

The notes on pages 32 to 58 from part of these financial statements

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

1.2 Going concern

The Board of Trustees has a reasonable expectation that the trust has adequate resources to continue to operate for the foreseeable future. The Trustees have considered a number of factors in arriving at this conclusion. The academy had a revenue reserves position at the 31 August 2025 of £281,171 with £408,954 cash at this date. A detailed budget for 2025/26 has been prepared and updated to include the impact of inflation, such as additional staffing costs and energy costs. This budget projects a small surplus, but the trust does remain a going concern.

1.3 Income

All incoming resources are recognised when the academy 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.

MUSCLIFF PRIMARY SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.3 Income (continued)

- **Sponsorship income**

Sponsorship income provided to the academy which amounts to a donation is recognised in the Statement of financial activities in the year in which it is receivable (where there are no performance-related conditions) where receipt is probable and it can be measured reliably.

- **Donations**

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

- **Other income**

Other income, including the hire of facilities, is recognised in the year it is receivable and to the extent the academy 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 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 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's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the academy apportioned to charitable activities.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.5 Interest receivable

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

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

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

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Land	- 125 years straight line
Long-term leasehold property	- 50 years straight line
Furniture and equipment	- 10% straight line
Computer equipment	- 25% straight line

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

1.7 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.

1.8 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.

1.9 Liabilities

Liabilities and provisions 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 anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised within interest payable and similar charges.

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.10 Operating leases

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

1.11 Pensions

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

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

1.12 Fund accounting

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

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

2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

The academy 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.

Pension liability

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 23, 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.

Building valuation

The valuation of land and buildings is a significant area of estimation within the financial statements. In accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction issued by the Department for Education (DfE), the academy trust recognises land and buildings at fair value on conversion or acquisition, based on a valuation commissioned by the DfE and carried out by independent professional valuers. Subsequent valuations are undertaken at least every five years, or sooner if there is evidence of material change. The valuation methodology used is Depreciated Replacement Cost (DRC), which reflects the cost of replacing the asset with a modern equivalent, adjusted for physical deterioration and obsolescence.

Staff back pay accrual

The academy trust recognises an accrual for staff back pay where there is a constructive obligation arising from contractual agreements, national pay awards, or other formal commitments. This estimate involves judgement regarding the timing, eligibility, and amount of backdated pay due to employees. Where final pay awards are pending, the trust uses best estimates based on available guidance and sector norms.

Critical areas of judgment:

The Academy obtains use of fixed assets as a lessee. The classification of such leases as operating or finance lease requires the Academy to determine, based on an evaluation of the terms and conditions of the arrangements, whether it retains or acquires the significant risks and rewards of ownership of these assets and accordingly whether the lease requires an asset and liability to be recognised in the Balance Sheet.

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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)

The actuary has valued the LGPS pension position as an overall asset of £653,000 at 31 August 2025. However, this asset has not been recognised on the balance sheet of the academy trust. Instead the year end position has been capped at Nil. Academy trusts are pooled within their respective Local Government Pension Schemes and a refund from the scheme is considered unlikely. Therefore, as the academy trust will not gain any future economic benefits as a result of the asset position, it is not considered appropriate to recognise this as an asset on the balance sheet.

3. Income from donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Donations	33,742	6,235	-	39,977
Capital Grants	-	-	10,514	10,514
	<u>33,742</u>	<u>6,235</u>	<u>10,514</u>	<u>50,491</u>
	<u><u>33,742</u></u>	<u><u>6,235</u></u>	<u><u>10,514</u></u>	<u><u>50,491</u></u>
	<i>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Donations	28,732	5,785	22,000	56,517
Capital Grants	-	-	10,683	10,683
	<u>28,732</u>	<u>5,785</u>	<u>32,683</u>	<u>67,200</u>
	<u><u>28,732</u></u>	<u><u>5,785</u></u>	<u><u>32,683</u></u>	<u><u>67,200</u></u>

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

4. Funding for the academy's charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Education			
DfE grants			
General Annual Grant	-	2,634,230	2,634,230
Other DfE grants			
Pupil Premium	-	169,173	169,173
UIFSM	-	85,050	85,050
Core Schools Budget	-	91,224	91,224
Teachers pay and pension grant	-	96,016	96,016
Others	-	60,288	60,288
	-	3,135,981	3,135,981
Other Government grants			
Special Education Needs	-	256,368	256,368
	-	256,368	256,368
Other income from the academy's education	24,939	-	24,939
	24,939	3,392,349	3,417,288
	24,939	3,392,349	3,417,288

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

4. Funding for the academy's charitable activities (continued)

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Education			
DfE grants			
General Annual Grant	-	2,640,895	2,640,895
Other DfE grants			
Pupil Premium	-	160,954	160,954
UIFSM	-	85,084	85,084
Supplementary grants	-	86,295	86,295
Others	-	62,832	62,832
Other DfE Group grants	-	66,047	66,047
	-	3,102,107	3,102,107
Other Government grants			
Other government grants	-	128,091	128,091
	-	128,091	128,091
Other income from the academy's education	10,347	-	10,347
	<u>10,347</u>	<u>3,230,198</u>	<u>3,240,545</u>
	<u>10,347</u>	<u>3,230,198</u>	<u>3,240,545</u>

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

5. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Hire of facilities	18,032	18,032
Wraparound care	59,830	59,830
Other	24,212	24,212
	102,074	102,074
	102,074	102,074

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Hire of facilities	19,441	19,441
Wraparound care	52,241	52,241
Other	12,278	12,278
	83,960	83,960
	83,960	83,960

6. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Bank interest	179	179
	179	179

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Bank interest	72	72
	72	72

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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 £
Expenditure on fundraising trading activities:				
Direct costs	41,675	-	32,961	74,636
Education:				
Direct costs	2,609,232	109,508	96,610	2,815,350
Support costs	501,996	174,682	117,673	794,351
	<u>3,152,903</u>	<u>284,190</u>	<u>247,244</u>	<u>3,684,337</u>
	<u><u>3,152,903</u></u>	<u><u>284,190</u></u>	<u><u>247,244</u></u>	<u><u>3,684,337</u></u>
	<i>Staff Costs 2024 £</i>	<i>Premises 2024 £</i>	<i>Other 2024 £</i>	<i>Total 2024 £</i>
Expenditure on fundraising trading activities:				
Direct costs	41,139	-	41,871	83,010
Education:				
Direct costs	2,640,656	111,102	95,036	2,846,794
Allocated support costs	394,675	186,497	189,212	770,384
	<u>3,076,470</u>	<u>297,599</u>	<u>326,119</u>	<u>3,700,188</u>
	<u><u>3,076,470</u></u>	<u><u>297,599</u></u>	<u><u>326,119</u></u>	<u><u>3,700,188</u></u>

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

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2025 £	Support costs 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Education	2,815,350	794,351	3,609,701

	<i>Activities undertaken directly 2024 £</i>	<i>Support costs 2024 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Education	2,846,794	770,384	3,617,178

Analysis of direct costs

	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Staff costs	2,609,232	2,640,656
Depreciation	125,216	111,102
Educational Supplies	16,121	29,273
Other Costs	42,341	46,073
Supply Teachers	13,257	-
Recruitment and Other staff Costs	5,898	10,454
Legal and professional	-	7,691
Technology costs	3,285	1,545
	2,815,350	2,846,794

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

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Total funds 2025 £	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Pension finance costs	10,000	17,000
Staff costs	458,739	394,675
Depreciation	26,090	46,213
Other Costs	990	1,996
Maintenance of premises and equipment	21,287	33,672
Cleaning	69,023	54,894
Rent and rates	30,697	36,526
Heat and light	30,858	40,182
Insurance	14,350	13,777
Security and transport	507	714
Catering	47,597	52,843
Technology costs	2,304	5,439
Office overheads	66,150	64,983
Governance costs	15,759	7,470
	794,351	770,384

9. Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2025 £	<i>2024 £</i>
Operating lease rentals	3,129	2,706
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	151,306	158,515
Fees paid to auditors for:		
- audit	3,410	3,250
- other services	1,995	1,900

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

10. Staff

a. Staff costs and employee benefits

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	2,310,072	2,369,892
Social security costs	224,652	211,880
Pension costs	551,230	494,698
	<u>3,085,954</u>	<u>3,076,470</u>
Agency staff costs	13,257	-
Staff restructuring costs	23,692	-
	<u>3,122,903</u>	<u>3,076,470</u>

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

	2025 £	2024 £
Redundancy payments	23,692	-
	<u>23,692</u>	<u>-</u>

b. Staff numbers

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

	2025 No.	2024 No.
Teachers	27	30
Administration and Support	67	76
Management	4	4
	<u>98</u>	<u>110</u>

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

10. Staff (continued)

b. Staff numbers (continued)

The average headcount expressed as full-time equivalents was:

	2025	<i>2024</i>
	No.	<i>No.</i>
Teachers	25	<i>25</i>
Administration and support	39	<i>45</i>
Management	4	<i>4</i>
	68	<i>74</i>
	68	<i>74</i>

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	<i>-</i>
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	1	<i>1</i>
	1	<i>1</i>
	1	<i>1</i>

d. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy 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 was £362,399 (2024 £334,204).

11. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more Trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the academy. The principal and other staff Trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal and staff members under their contracts of employment. The value of Trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

		2025	<i>2024</i>
		£	<i>£</i>
S Fenby, Head Teacher	Remuneration	85,000 - 90,000	<i>85,000 - 90,000</i>
	Pension contributions paid	25,000 - 30,000	<i>20,000 - 25,000</i>

During the year ended 31 August 2025, expenses totalling £119 were reimbursed or paid directly to 1 Trustee (2024 - £60 to 1 Trustee).

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

12. Trustees' and Officers' insurance

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

13. Tangible fixed assets

	Long-term leasehold property £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation				
At 1 September 2024	7,659,059	100,893	118,307	7,878,259
At 31 August 2025	<u>7,659,059</u>	<u>100,893</u>	<u>118,307</u>	<u>7,878,259</u>
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2024	1,183,386	42,032	107,129	1,332,547
Charge for the year	132,325	8,617	10,364	151,306
At 31 August 2025	<u>1,315,711</u>	<u>50,649</u>	<u>117,493</u>	<u>1,483,853</u>
Net book value				
At 31 August 2025	<u><u>6,343,348</u></u>	<u><u>50,244</u></u>	<u><u>814</u></u>	<u><u>6,394,406</u></u>
At 31 August 2024	<u><u>6,475,673</u></u>	<u><u>58,861</u></u>	<u><u>11,178</u></u>	<u><u>6,545,712</u></u>

14. Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	2,836	4,419
Other debtors	-	799
Prepayments and accrued income	93,912	46,256
	<u><u>96,748</u></u>	<u><u>51,474</u></u>

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

15. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	30,666	26,935
Other taxation and social security	57,653	44,410
Other creditors	64,345	67,436
Accruals and deferred income	70,436	115,556
	<u>223,100</u>	<u>254,337</u>
	<u><u>223,100</u></u>	<u><u>254,337</u></u>
	2025	2024
	£	£
Deferred Income		
Deferred income at 1 September 2024	65,745	68,807
Resources deferred during the year	62,169	65,745
Amounts released from previous periods	(65,745)	(68,807)
	<u>62,169</u>	<u>65,745</u>
	<u><u>62,169</u></u>	<u><u>65,745</u></u>

At the balance sheet date the academy was holding funds received in advance of the 2025/26 financial year for UIFSM and Rates Relief.

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

16. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 September 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2025 £
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds	256,272	160,934	(136,035)	-	-	281,171
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant	-	2,634,230	(2,652,642)	18,412	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	169,173	(169,173)	-	-	-
Higher Needs	-	251,176	(251,176)	-	-	-
UIFSM	-	85,050	(85,050)	-	-	-
Other grants	-	161,496	(161,496)	-	-	-
Core Schools Budget	-	91,224	(91,224)	-	-	-
Donations	-	6,235	(6,235)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(310,000)	-	20,000	-	290,000	-
	(310,000)	3,398,584	(3,396,996)	18,412	290,000	-
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Transferred on conversion	6,401,306	-	(131,704)	-	-	6,269,602
DfE/ESFA capital grants	51,405	10,514	(6,121)	(18,412)	-	37,386
Transfer from GAG	75,799	-	(10,536)	-	-	65,263
Capital donations	789	-	(789)	-	-	-
MPA	25,742	-	(2,156)	-	-	23,586
	6,555,041	10,514	(151,306)	(18,412)	-	6,395,837
Total Restricted funds	6,245,041	3,409,098	(3,548,302)	-	290,000	6,395,837

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

16. Statement of funds (continued)

Total funds	6,501,313	3,570,032	(3,684,337)	-	290,000	6,677,008
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The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

General Annual Grant (GAG)

Income from the DfE which is to be used for the normal running costs of the Academy, including education and support costs.

Pupil Premium

Funding received from the DfE for children that qualify for free school meals to enable the Academy to address the current underlying inequalities between those children and their wealthier peers.

Higher Needs funding

Income received from the Local Authority to fund further support for pupils with additional needs.

Universal Infant Free School Meals:

Universal Infant Free School Meals income provided by the DfE to fund a free school meal to every pupil in reception and years 1 and 2.

Other revenue grants include:

Income received from the DfE to fund, rates relief and also includes higher needs funding and other local government funding. Also included is teachers pay and pension grant, to provide funding in support of the teachers' pay awards and the National Tutoring Programme grant, to provide funding for additional academic support delivered by trained and experienced tutors and mentors. A Sports grant is also provided to fund schools in their attempts to offer physical education to all pupils.

Core School's Budget Grant

Core school's budget grant is received by the trust from the DfE, for supporting the trust in funding overall costs.

Donations

Donations are received with specific restrictions.

Pension Reserve

The Academy's share of the assets and liabilities in the Local Government Pension Scheme. This has currently been capped at Nil, due to an excess of scheme assets over scheme liabilities.

Fixed assets transferred on conversion

This represents the buildings and equipment donated to the school from the Dioceses of Portsmouth and Winchester and Local Authority on conversion to an Academy.

DfE/ESFA capital grants

Devolved Formula Capital funding from the DfE to cover the maintenance and purchase of the Academy's assets.

Capital Expenditure from GAG

This represents funds transferred from the restricted GAG fund to purchase fixed assets.

MPA

Capital donations received from Muscliff Parents Association to purchase fixed assets.

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

16. Statement of funds (continued)

Capital donations

Capital donations received with specific restrictions.

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

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

	<i>Balance at 1 September 2023</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Transfers in/out</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses)</i>	<i>Balance at 31 August 2024</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds	221,529	123,111	(88,368)	-	-	256,272
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant	277,199	2,640,895	(2,921,417)	3,323	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	160,954	(160,954)	-	-	-
Higher Needs	-	128,091	(128,091)	-	-	-
UIFSM	-	85,084	(85,084)	-	-	-
Other grants	-	134,664	(134,664)	-	-	-
Supplementary Grant	-	86,295	(86,295)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(444,000)	-	62,000	-	72,000	(310,000)
	<u>(166,801)</u>	<u>3,235,983</u>	<u>(3,454,505)</u>	<u>3,323</u>	<u>72,000</u>	<u>(310,000)</u>

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

	<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>
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Transferred on conversion	6,534,477	-	(133,171)	-	-	6,401,306
DfE/ESFA capital grants	52,211	10,683	(8,166)	(3,323)	-	51,405
Transfer from GAG	86,335	-	(10,536)	-	-	75,799
Capital donations	5,273	-	(4,484)	-	-	789
MPA	4,700	22,000	(958)	-	-	25,742
	<u>6,682,996</u>	<u>32,683</u>	<u>(157,315)</u>	<u>(3,323)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,555,041</u>
Total Restricted funds	<u>6,516,195</u>	<u>3,268,666</u>	<u>(3,611,820)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>72,000</u>	<u>6,245,041</u>
Total funds	<u><u>6,737,724</u></u>	<u><u>3,391,777</u></u>	<u><u>(3,700,188)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>72,000</u></u>	<u><u>6,501,313</u></u>

17. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	6,394,406	6,394,406
Current assets	504,271	1,431	505,702
Creditors due within one year	(223,100)	-	(223,100)
Total	<u><u>281,171</u></u>	<u><u>6,395,837</u></u>	<u><u>6,677,008</u></u>

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17. 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	-	-	6,545,712	6,545,712
Current assets	510,609	-	9,329	519,938
Creditors due within one year	(254,337)	-	-	(254,337)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(310,000)	-	(310,000)
Total	<u>256,272</u>	<u>(310,000)</u>	<u>6,555,041</u>	<u>6,501,313</u>

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

	2025 £	2024 £
Net expenditure for the year (as per Statement of financial activities)	<u>(114,305)</u>	<u>(308,411)</u>
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	151,306	158,515
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(10,514)	(10,683)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	(30,000)	(79,000)
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	10,000	17,000
Increase in debtors	(45,274)	(5,568)
Decrease in creditor	(31,237)	(9,468)
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>(70,024)</u>	<u>(237,615)</u>

19. Cash flows from investing activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	-	(27,976)
Capital grants from DfE Group	10,514	10,683
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	<u>10,514</u>	<u>(17,293)</u>

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20. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2025	<i>2024</i>
	£	£
Cash in hand and at bank	408,954	468,464
Total cash and cash equivalents	408,954	468,464

21. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2024	Cash flows	At 31 August 2025
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	468,464	(59,510)	408,954
	468,464	(59,510)	408,954

22. Contingent asset

The actuary has valued the LGPS pension position as an overall asset of £653,000 at 31 August 2025. However, this asset has not been recognised on the balance sheet of the academy trust. Instead the year end position has been capped at Nil. Academy trusts are pooled within their respective Local Government Pension Schemes and a refund from the scheme is considered unlikely. Therefore, as the academy trust will not gain any future economic benefits as a result of the asset position, it is not considered appropriate to recognise this as an asset on the balance sheet.

23. Pension commitments

The academy's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by Dorset 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 £62,402 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2025 (2024 - £62,977) and are included within creditors.

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23. Pension commitments (continued)

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). This is an increase of 5% in employer contributions and the cost control result is such that no change in member benefits is needed.
- Total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £218,100 million and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222,200 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £39,800 million.

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £324,607 (2024 - £305,800).

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

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

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23. 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 £320,000 (2024 - £325,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £257,000 (2024 - £262,000) and employees' contributions totalled £63,000 (2024 - £63,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 18.2 per cent for employers and 5.5-12.5 per cent for employees.

As described in note 1.11 the LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the academy, who were the employees transferred as part of the conversion from the maintained school and new employees who were eligible to, and did, join the scheme in the year. The obligation in respect of employees who transferred on conversion represents their cumulative service at both the predecessor school and the academy at the balance sheet date.

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

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2025	2024
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.55	3.8
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.55	2.8
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	6.1	5.1
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.55	2.8

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

	2025	2024
	Years	Years
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	22.2	21.8
Females	23.0	23.9
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	23.8	23.1
Females	24.8	25.3

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23. Pension commitments (continued)

Sensitivity analysis

	2025	<i>2024</i>
	£000	<i>£000</i>
Discount rate +0.1%	(51)	<i>(66)</i>
Discount rate -0.1%	53	<i>69</i>
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	55	<i>84</i>
Mortality assumption - 1 year decrease	(54)	<i>(82)</i>
CPI rate +0.1%	53	<i>67</i>
CPI rate -0.1%	(51)	<i>(65)</i>

Share of scheme assets

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

	At 31	<i>At 31 August</i>
	August 2025	<i>2024</i>
	£	<i>£</i>
Equities	2,090,000	<i>1,751,000</i>
Corporate bonds	209,000	<i>181,000</i>
Property	216,000	<i>213,000</i>
Cash and other liquid assets	78,000	<i>46,000</i>
Investment funds	211,000	<i>182,000</i>
Asset backed securities	231,000	<i>196,000</i>
Infrastructure	239,000	<i>203,000</i>
Total market value of assets	3,274,000	<i>2,772,000</i>

The actual return on scheme assets was £249,000 (2024 - £282,000).

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

	2025	<i>2024</i>
	£	<i>£</i>
Current service cost	(225,000)	<i>(182,000)</i>
Interest income	148,000	<i>124,000</i>
Interest cost	(158,000)	<i>(141,000)</i>
Administrative expenses	(2,000)	<i>(1,000)</i>
Total amount recognised in the Statement of financial activities	(237,000)	<i>(200,000)</i>

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23. Pension commitments (continued)

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

	2025 £	2024 £
At 1 September	3,082,000	2,644,000
Interest cost	158,000	141,000
Employee contributions	63,000	63,000
Actuarial (gains)/losses	(189,000)	86,000
Benefits paid	(65,000)	(34,000)
Losses on curtailments	36,000	-
Current service costs	189,000	182,000
At 31 August	3,274,000	3,082,000

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

	2025 £	2024 £
At 1 September	2,772,000	2,200,000
Interest income	148,000	124,000
Actuarial gains	101,000	158,000
Employer contributions	257,000	262,000
Employee contributions	63,000	63,000
Benefits paid	(65,000)	(34,000)
Administration expenses	(2,000)	(1,000)
At 31 August	3,274,000	2,772,000

24. Operating lease commitments

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

	2025 £	2024 £
Within 1 year	3,129	1,353
Between 1 and 5 years	12,433	-
	15,562	1,353

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25. Members' liability

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

26. Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the academy and the composition of the Board of Trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the trustees have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook, including notifying the DfE of all transactions made on or after 1 April 2019 and obtaining their approval where required, and with the academy's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures relating to connected and related party transactions.