

**Education South West
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**
Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 August 2025

**Company Registration Number 7451553
(England and Wales)**

Education South West

Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 August 2025

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Education South West

Reference and Administrative Details

Year Ended 31 August 2025

Members

N Grodhunce
W Lodge (appointed 1.9.25)
S Marshall
J Pike
M Turgoose
L Winston (retired 31.8.25)

Trustees

G Austin
B Brooks
G Brown
J Gibbs (retired 6.10.25)
A Fearon
A Hines
D Potter
P Sampson (appointed 10.10.25)
M Shanks (CEO and Accounting Officer)
J Sutton
B Taylor (retired 31.8.25)

Senior Management Team:

CEO and Executive Principal
Deputy CEO
Chief Financial and Operating Officer
Director of Education
Director of Education

M Shanks
R Coles
S White
J Keller
S Wharf

Principal and Registered Office

Balkwill Road
Kingsbridge
Devon
TQ7 1PL

Company Registration Number

7451553(England and Wales)

Independent Auditor

PKF Francis Clark
Unit 18, Melville Building East
23 Royal William Yard, Plymouth
Devon, PL1 3GW

Bankers

Lloyds TSB
Kingsbridge
Devon

Solicitors

Wolferstans
60-66 North Hill
Plymouth
PL4 8EP

Education South West

Trustees' Report

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 year ended 31 August 2025. The annual report serves the purpose of both a trustees' report and a directors' report under company law.

The Trust operates fourteen academies, comprising four secondaries with sixth form (Kingsbridge Community College, Coombeshead Academy, Teign School and King Edward VI Community College), an all-through academy comprising primary and secondary (Dartmouth Academy), a university technical college (South Devon UTC) and 9 primary academies (Blackawton Primary School, Christow Primary School, Rydon Primary School, Stoke Fleming Primary School, East Allington Primary School, Wynstream Primary School, Kingsteignton Primary School and Kingsbridge Primary School) serving a catchment area in South Devon. It has a pupil capacity of 9,720 and had a roll of 6,389 in the school census in May 2025. It also delivers Initial Teacher Training, and leads the South West Institute for Teaching (a teaching school hub).

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The Multi-Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The Charitable Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the Trust.

The trustees are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. Details of the trustees who served during the year are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

Members' Liability

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

Trustees' Indemnities

Every trustee or other officer or auditor of the Trust shall be indemnified out of the assets of the Trust against any liability incurred by him in that capacity in defending any proceedings, whether civil or criminal, in which judgement is given in favour or in which he is acquitted or in connection with any application in which relief is granted to him by the court from liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the affairs of the Academy Trust.

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

It is accepted that a well-informed, supportive and challenging Trust Board is an essential prerequisite for a successful Multi Academy Trust. The majority of the trustees are appointed by Members who appoint in accordance with the Terms of Reference and Scheme of Delegation. They must ensure a balance of skills and geographical representation. The trustees in turn approve appointments to Local Governing Bodies. In addition, the Chief Executive Officer is a director.

The chairman and vice chairman of the Board are elected annually according to the process outlined in the Board's Terms of Reference.

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Trustees' Report

Year Ended 31 August 2025

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees

All new trustees are assigned an experienced trustee mentor to assist them in taking on their new responsibilities. They attend essential training courses (e.g. interpreting data). We subscribe to the national training and information organisation, the National Governors' Association, in order to give trustees access to updates in national policy and access to essential documents and policy changes. In addition, we organise our own programme of Governor Training and Forum sessions.

Organisational Structure

There are five Members of the Trust. Vacancies are filled by the remaining Members. As guardians of the Trust's ethos and values, their primary function is to have oversight of the governance arrangements of the Trust and to challenge the Board. They have powers to appoint and remove trustees and determine changes to the Articles of Association. They meet several times each year.

The Board is responsible for the management of the Trust and its academies. It determines the strategic direction of the Trust. A minimum of four Board meetings are scheduled annually to oversee finance, educational standards, safeguarding and other matters.

The Board delegates the day to day running of the Trust and the academies to the Chief Executive Officer who has the executive responsibility for implementing Trust Board policies and decisions. The Chief Financial and Operating Officer reports to the Chief Executive Officer and leads the central Shared Services of Finance, Information Technology, Human Resources, Facilities Management, Catering, Procurement, Marketing, Data and Administration.

In accordance with the Academy Trust Handbook, the trustees appointed the CEO as the Accounting Officer and the Chief Financial and Operating Officer as the Principal Finance Officer.

All Trust academies have Local Governing Bodies. They challenge the academy head teachers and are tasked by the Board to scrutinise the activities of their academies, focusing on safeguarding, achievement and school improvement. They identify risks and propose budgets to the Board for approval.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

All senior managers follow an annual appraisal process as set out in the Appraisal Policy. This involves setting targets for the year and then a review process to assess achievement. This then leads to a pay recommendation which is put for scrutiny and approval to a Remuneration Committee, made up of trustees from the Board.

The Trust does not operate a bonus scheme. Performance Management is carried out by that person's line manager; in the case of the CEO, this is carried out by the Chair of the Board and other trustees.

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Year Ended 31 August 2025

Trade union facility time

In accordance with the Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2017, the following tables summarise the time spent by employees on facility time.

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the period	Full time equivalent employee number
12	10.14

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	-
Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time	-

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities	-
-------------------------------------------	---

Connected Organisations, including Related Party Relationships

Kingsbridge Community College has been a designated National Teaching School since 2011, and has been leading the South West Teaching School Alliance since then, and staff involved in and leading this activity are employed by Education South West. This activity continues to develop and Education South West were asked to pilot the new teaching school hub which covers all the schools in Devon, Torbay and Plymouth; from September 2021 South West Institute for Teaching (SWIFT), which supersedes preceding alliances, assumed this responsibility and is led by Education South West.

Five registered charities (note 12) organised by parents, staff and other members of the community have as their object raising funds for particular academies within the Trust.

Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)

Trust policies, including recruitment and selection, accessibility, equality and managing sickness and absence include policy with respect to the inclusion and support of disabled staff. The Trust is committed to ensure that throughout recruitment and selection, no applicant is disadvantaged or discriminated against because of protected characteristics including disability; exceptions are roles which require the performance of tasks which the person cannot be supported to carry out. The Trust ensures equality of career development and opportunity for all staff. In instances where staff become disabled during employment with the Trust, wherever possible, adjustments are made to support the continuity of employment.

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Trustees' Report

Year Ended 31 August 2025

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

In line with Objects and Aims the core group of customers of the Trust are the students who attend our schools and, by extension, their parents. Engagement with the students is a matter of day-to-day practice; engagement with parents, is both proactive and reactive, ensuring that parents are provided with information in respect to their child's educational performance, special educational needs and pastoral support requirements. Parents evenings also provide a scheduled communication between parents, teachers and students.

Procurement for the Trust is centrally managed and as referenced in the Strategic Report section of this Trustees' report a developed network of suppliers is in place.

The wider community are encouraged to make use of the Trust's facilities outside of core school hours. Approximately 100 community groups, including sport, drama and other leisure activities, involving children and adults, use the Trust's facilities throughout the year.

Objectives and Activities

Objects and Aims

The objects and aims of the Trust are to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom. In particular we do this by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing schools offering a broad and balanced curriculum or educational institutions which are principally concerned with providing full-time or part-time education for children of compulsory school age.

Our aims and aspirations

Our purpose: We educate children so they can lead great lives.

Expect the best

The relentless pursuit of excellence drives every aspect of our work. We understand that this is a journey best undertaken by working closely with others within Education South West and beyond.

Challenge and pace are integral to our culture. We support students and staff to rise to that challenge, and feel the joy and satisfaction that comes when we are working at our best.

Learners with character

Our staff are committed to continuous improvement. We support them with high-quality, tailored programmes of professional development whatever their role and stage in their career.

We inspire students to develop the knowledge and character that enable them to leave school ready to lead rewarding lives in a rapidly changing world. Cultural, sporting and artistic experiences help them discover their full potential. They further develop character through a resilient, determined and positive response to challenge. We want students to leave with the academic qualifications, skills and personal attributes that open doors to a fulfilling future.

Care about people and the environment

To be caring and considerate, kind and respectful is at the heart of everything we do. We carefully nurture the centrality of such relationships with others in our schools, with parents, our local and, ultimately, our global communities.

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Year Ended 31 August 2025

Caring for people leads us to care for our environment. This starts with our own schools and ends with our planet. The curriculum we follow and the attitudes we nurture are our contribution to a sustainable future.

Everyone is a leader

Our students are the leaders of tomorrow. We create rich opportunities for students to work in teams and learn by leading.

Every member of staff in every school is a role model. We all influence, challenge and inspire the young people around us through our words and actions. We recognise that the best leadership releases the potential in others and builds the possibility of great lives for us all.

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

By capitalising on our collective strength and resources, we:

- Raise the academic achievement and personal growth of all our students.
- Improve the quality of teaching and learning by providing better opportunities for staff to create new knowledge and develop skills.
- Provide better support services at improved value for money to increase resources for teaching and learning.
- Recruit and retain higher quality staff by offering opportunities across the group.
- Support and hold each academy to account through stronger governance.
- Build a cohesive identity rooted in the unique identity of each academy.

Public Benefit

The trustees have ensured through review and monitoring of the activities of each Academy within its Trust that the primary objective of the Academy Trust to provide education for the public benefit has been met. The trustees confirm they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Companies Act 2006 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance provided by the Charity Commission.

Strategic Report

Achievements and Performance

- All statutory outcomes including Key Stage 2, GCSE and A Level results have shown a marked improvement across ESW schools.
- Targeted interventions for FSM6, SEND, and EAL students have contributed to narrowing attainment gaps.
- Outcomes remain consistently above national averages for primary, reflecting strong teaching, curriculum and leadership.
- A trust-wide curriculum spine model is in place and constantly reviewed, at both primary and secondary.
- Common assessment points and shared planning are reducing workload and improving consistency.
- Literacy remains a priority. Early intervention strategies are being embedded with a trust reading strategy in place.

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- A high volume of external trips and activities continues to enrich the student experience, including sports fixtures, volunteering, and Sixth Form events.
- Outcomes are valued in all their forms, with effort grades and revision culture embedded across schools.
- Governance remains a strength, with local governing bodies actively supporting trustees.
- ESW continues to contribute to the national stage, with staff acting as trustees for other schools, trusts, and charities, as well as speaking as part of national events.
- ESW is the link partner for work with the OECD and schools in Ukraine, contributing to global education development.
- The CEO chairs the DfE Secondary Headteacher Reference Group, and staff contribute to DSLS and Devon County forums.
- ESW, alongside Colyton, leads the work of teaching schools through SWIFT, and collaborates closely with One Cornwall Teaching School. ESW staff have delivered NPQs across the southwest.
- ESW has trained over 80 new entrants through SWIFT Initial Teacher Education.
- The Devon Research School grounds practice in evidence across all ESW schools.
- The ESW Leadership Programme supports leadership development at all levels.
- A robust People Strategy ensures that all staff are empowered to lead great lives.
- ESW is promoting the formation of the Leading Great Lives charity, which supports communities across its schools.
- The foundation initiative reflects the trust's commitment to social responsibility and community engagement as part of its wider strengthening the community agenda.

Education South West continues to deliver strong academic outcomes, lead national and international initiatives, and invest in staff development and community impact.

Risk Management

The trustees use the Risk Register as defined in the Academy Trust Handbook to evaluate strategic and reputational, operational, compliance, and financial risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed and have ensured that the management structure, systems and controls are in place to manage these risks, as well as insurance to cover financial loss and legal exposure.

Going Concern

At the year end the Trust held £6,158k (2024 - £4,774k) in cash; at 30.9.25, and 28.10.25 cash balances were respectively £6,284k and £6,489k. Cash levels are predicted to remain at a similar level throughout the year and at the end of August 2026 are estimated to be £5,000k; this may be higher depending the level of Trust capital funding received.

The Trust has prepared a budget for 25/26 showing a planned surplus before depreciation and FRS102 adjustments of £357k. The budget for 25-26 is the aggregation of 14 schools, plus the teaching school hub and initial teacher training activity and includes locations with surplus budgets and locations with deficit budgets. In all cases where a budget deficit is being set, there is a financial plan connected with

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Year Ended 31 August 2025

planned future savings and/or increase in roll with a high probability, including where the roll is already on an upward trajectory, but for which the lagged funding contributes to a short-term deficit.

The potential surplus will be consolidated with reserves carried forward at the end of 31 August 2025 of £2,181k (2024 - £1,834k) on the general restricted fund and £1,420k (2024 - £1,620k) on the unrestricted fund. Since the budget was set for 25-26, revised funding rates for the sixth form, including the NI sixth form grant has improved the projected surplus by £120k.

The Trust commenced the financial period 25-26 with £3.6 million in reserves as noted above, and a cash balance of £6.1 million. This strong financial position is complemented by the normal detailed and continuous annual financial forecasting reported to the Finance Committee each month; in addition, a five-year rolling financial forecast maintained to ensure the long term is managed in conjunction with financial management decisions taken in the current period to manage the outcome.

Considering the level of reserves and cash balances held by the Trust, along with the strong financial management, planning and monitoring, the trustees are of the opinion that there are no material uncertainties in relation to going concern and they consider that the Trust has adequate financial resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, the Trust continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Statement of Accounting Policies.

Promoting the success of the company

The trustees are responsible for promoting the success of the charity to achieve its charitable purposes, included within the Objects and Aims section of this trustees' report.

The Governance Statement included within this Annual Report defines the mechanisms through which the trustees ensure appropriate governance of the Trust. The trustees' key role is holding the CEO to account for the continued improvement of educational outcomes and the stability of the financial status of the Trust. The trustees ensure that strategic planning with respect to organisation, development of educational provision and sound financial planning, will deliver a sustained development path for the Trust.

Key Financial Performance Indicators

The key financial performance indicator for the Trust is the adherence to the financial budget set at the beginning of the year. Excluding any generated funds, all income for the Academy is Government or Local Authority funded and therefore the income of the Academy is largely a given.

An expenditure budget is set at the beginning of the year, taking into consideration the level of Government funding. The trustees have reviewed detailed capital and revenue expenditure reports compared to expenditure budgets, which confirms that the processes and procedures in place for controlling expenditure are acceptable.

Financial Review

The Trust held fund balances on 31 August 25 of £119,987,000 (2024 - £118,737,000) comprising £118,567,000 (2024 - £117,117,000) of restricted funds and £1,420,000 (2024 - £1,620,000) of unrestricted funds. A pension reserve deficit on the Local Government Pension Scheme of £NIL (2024 - £1,597,000) is included in the restricted funds balance; this includes an asset ceiling adjustment of £4,670,000 offsetting a non-refundable asset value surplus over the scheme liability.

In accordance with the Funding Agreement, the principal source of general funding with which to finance the operations of the Academy Trust, is the Department for Education. £228,000 (2024 - £333,000) of general funding was spent on tangible fixed assets and £0 (2024 - £55,000) on intangible fixed assets.

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The Trust spent £2,754,000 on tangible fixed assets. £1,348,000 of this was spent on buildings, which included £173,000 on phase 1 of the Blackawton primary preschool redevelopment, £160,000 on resurfacing of the Kingsbridge Community College all weather pitch, £163,00 on refurbishment of changing rooms and toilets across three secondary schools, £51,000 on roof refurbishment at KEVICC sixth form ; as well as general refurbishment and condition improvement across the Trust's schools, including roofing, windows, internal flooring, internal decoration and window replacements.

£89,000 (2024 - £271,000) of redundancy costs were incurred in the period.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The principal risk facing the Trust is the future level of Government Funding and the relentless rise in staff costs, along with general inflation. These risks are managed by rigorous financial management and careful control over budgeted expenditure which ensures that an unplanned deficit does not arise for the year, combined with a prudent reserves policy.

Reserves Policy

As at 31 August 2025, excluding fixed asset funds and pension deficits, £2,181,000 (2024 - £1,834,000) of restricted funds and £1,420,000 (2024 - £1,620,000) of unrestricted funds were held.

Restricted funds carried forward comprise Other Dfe grants £223,000 and Other Grants £244,000. £218,000 of the Other Dfe balance carried forward is held as a reserve to protect against financial risk.

The pension fund is in a surplus with a closing balance of £4,670,000 (2024 - deficit of £1,597,000). The Trust has recognised an asset ceiling adjustment of £4,670,000 (2024 - £Nil) and a net balance of £Nil (2024 - £1,597,000) in the financial statements.

Other Grants balance carried forward are specific funds, which includes £18,000 redundancy reserve for Nursery Outreach, £31,000 relating to young enterprise donated funds, and £239,000 connected with South West Institute for Teaching.

Unrestricted funds are held to provide funds for essential capital replacement and to support the future stability of the Trust in the face of falling education funding and challenges with respect to maintaining the roll.

Investment Policy

The Trust has no investments other than cash balances. The Trust's current account is held by Lloyds Bank; at 31 August 2025, £2,500,000 is held in a Lloyds Bank deposit account.

Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting

UK energy use and associated greenhouse gas emissions

Annual energy usage and associated annual greenhouse gas ("GHG") emissions are reported pursuant to the Companies (Directors' Report) and Limited Liability Partnerships (Energy and Carbon Report) Regulations 2018 ("the 2018 Regulations") that came into force 1st April 2019.

Organisational boundary

In accordance with the 2018 Regulations, the energy use and associated greenhouse gas emissions are for those assets owned or operated within the UK only as defined by the operational control boundary. This includes all fourteen schools controlled during the reporting period as well as minibuses.

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Additionally, it includes the mandatory reporting of scope 3 business travel in employee-owned or hired vehicles (referred to as the "grey fleet"). This reporting period saw the removal of Kingswear Community Primary School in August 2024.

Reporting period

The annual reporting period is 1st September to 31st August each year and the energy and carbon emissions are aligned to this period.

Quantification and reporting methodology

The 2019 UK Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines and the GHG Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard (revised edition) were followed. The 2025 UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting were used in emission calculations. The report has been reviewed independently by Zenergi Limited (trading as Briar Consulting Engineers Limited).

Electricity, gas, and oil consumption were based on invoice records and meter reads. Where invoices and meter reads were missing, consumption figures were estimated using the pro-rata and apportioning techniques. Fuel cost data was utilised for fleet vehicles and average p/litre values were used to calculate litres of fuel used. For grey fleet, cost of data once again was utilised and a 45p per mile value was used to calculate mileage. On-site renewable solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity and wind turbine generated electricity was quantified using meter readings. However, due to the absence of measured exported renewable energy, the precise amount of renewable energy consumed on site could not be determined. Therefore, 100% consumption of renewable energy was assumed for reporting purposes. Generally gross calorific values were used except for grey fleet mileage energy calculations as per Government GHG Conversion Factors.

The associated emissions are mandatory emissions according to the 2018 Regulations, then further divided into the direct combustion of fuels and the operation of facilities (scope 1), indirect emissions from purchased electricity (scope 2) and further indirect emissions that occur because of Trust activities but occur from sources not owned or controlled by the organisation (scope 3).

Breakdown of energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh):

Energy type	2024/25	2023/24
<u>Mandatory:</u>		
Gas	4,280,920	4,111,950
Propane	138,788	153,645
Oil	23,676	20,289
Purchased electricity from the grid	2,824,975	3,565,409
Transport fuel	250,434	220,991
Consumed electricity from on-site renewable sources	123,515	136,668
Total energy (mandatory)	7,642,308	8,208,952

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Breakdown of emissions associated with the reported energy use (tCO₂e):

Emission source	2024/25	2023/24
<u>Mandatory:</u>		
Scope 1		
Gas	783.2	752.1
Propane	29.7	32.9
Oil	5.8	5.0
Trust-owned vehicles (minibuses)	21.7	24.7
Consumed electricity from on-site renewable sources	0.0	0.0
Scope 2		
Purchased electricity (location-based)	500.0	738.2
Scope 3		
Category 6: Business travel (grey fleet)	39.2	28.4
Total gross emissions (mandatory)	1,379.8	1,581.3

Intensity ratio

Intensity ratios	2024/25	2023/24
<u>Mandatory emissions only:</u>		
Tonnes of CO ₂ e per pupil	0.210	0.243
Tonnes of CO ₂ e per square meter floor area	0.018	0.021

Two intensity ratios are reported: emissions (tCO₂e) per pupil and per square meter of floor area. Emissions per pupil is the recommended ratio for the sector, ensuring consistency and comparability, with pupil numbers based on the Autumn 2024 Census. Emissions per square meter of floor area are reported to reflect the energy efficiency of the buildings, which are the primary source of emissions.

Energy efficiency action during current financial year

In the reporting period September 2024 – August 2025, the Trust has taken the following energy efficiency actions:

Replaced an old gas fired calorifier with new electric immersion heaters reducing energy waste by providing more efficient, controllable water heating. Replaced wooden framed single glazed doors & windows with insulated uPVC doors and double-glazed windows, improving thermal insulation,

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Trustees' Report

Year Ended 31 August 2025

minimising heat loss and lowering the need for heating or cooling at King Edward VI Community College.

At Stoke Fleming Primary School seven 9 kW gas heaters were replaced with ten 2 kW electric convection heaters that can be remotely controlled further reducing unnecessary heating and energy waste.

Approximately twenty-two fluorescent 35 W strip lights were replaced with the same number of 12 W LED lights at Dartmouth Academy.

Various light fixtures were replaced at East Allington Primary School, mostly going from 35 W units to 5 W LED units, and from 70 W units to 12 W LED units. LEDs are more efficient, last longer, and waste less energy as heat, making them a smarter choice for sustainable lighting.

The Trust remains committed to reducing its carbon footprint and continues to look out for new energy saving and funding opportunities going forwards.

Plans for Future Periods

Our Strategic Improvement Plan continues to be the focus of our work, built around our values of Opportunity, Community, Achievement and Character. We are proud to be one organisation in which every member of staff has a collective responsibility for all of our children.

We believe that education makes children's lives better. A good education enables children to lead great lives in every sense of the word. We believe that every child has the right to achieve all that they are capable of and at the heart of any organisation are its people. At Education South West we are a people focused trust. Our core business is educating and developing people.

We aim to develop active, happy, inquisitive, globally aware adults who are articulate, numerate and literate; compassionate, respectful and empathetic; thoughtful, confident and resilient; innovative, creative and artistic; healthy in body and mind who aspire to a diverse and rewarding future of opportunities and are able to stand up for their principles.

Every child who is educated at an Education South West school will be entitled to a curriculum which is broad and balanced yet personalised to recognise and build upon an individual's talent, enabling them to access new experiences. We expect our children to develop meaningful practical skills as well as academic ones. Students in Education South West schools will be financially literate as well as know about the environment and the importance of sustainable living.

Whilst recognising the challenges within the Trust, the Trust will continue, where possible, and not to the detriment of the Trust's schools, to export advice, resources and support to other schools and local authorities to help to address challenges faced by those organisations.

Homelands Primary School will be converting to an academy and joining the trust in early 2026.

Fundraising

The Academy Trust's fundraising activity is limited to events held at the schools which are managed by the school's leadership team. These events typically involve staff, students, parents and members of the local community in raising funds for the school's fund accounts, schools equipment or in support of another designated charity.

The academy trust does not use any external fundraisers. All fundraising undertaken during the year was monitored by the Trustees.

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Year Ended 31 August 2025

Funds Held as Custodian Trustee on Behalf of Others

The Academy Trust acts as an agent in distributing 16-19 bursary funds from the DfE. Payments received from the DfE and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the statement of financial activities as the Academy Trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The Academy Trust can use up to 5% of the allocation towards its own administration costs and this is recognised in the statement of financial activities. The funds received and paid and any balances held are disclosed in note 30. As of the 31 August 2025 undistributed bursary funding of £158,000 was held on the Trust's balance sheet.

In addition, the Trust distributes ITT bursaries, as agent for the DfE. The funds received and paid and any balances held are disclosed in note 30. As of the 31 August 2025 undistributed bursary funding of £13,000 was held on the Trust's balance sheet.

Auditor

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

The Trustees' Report, incorporating a Strategic Report was approved by order of the Board on 11th December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
Graham Austin
Chair

Education South West

Governance Statement

Year Ended 31 August 2025

Scope of responsibility

As trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Education South West 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 trustees have delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the CEO, 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 Education South West and Secretary of State for Education. He is also responsible for reporting to the trustees any material weaknesses or breakdown in internal control.

In order to manage conflicts of interest the Trust maintains a database of interests for all business interests (detailing company directorships, partnerships, sole trader and employment activities and ownership and control thereof), family related business interests, and other Governor/Trustee roles, for all trustees, local governing body members, and senior executive leaders across the trust.

A standing agenda item exists for all board and governing body committee meetings at which members are invited to declare any new interests. Annually the governance professional seeks affirmation or update to the data held for each person on the database, via secure and personally validated electronic submission. The register for all trustees and governing body members is published on the Trust website.

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Governance Statement

Year Ended 31 August 2025

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities.

The full Trust Board has formally met 6 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the board was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
G Austin	6	6
B Brooks	5	6
A Fearon	6	6
G Brown	3	6
J Gibbs (retired 6.10.25)	1	6
A Hines	6	6
D Potter	6	6
P Sampson (appointed 10.10.25)	0	0
M Shanks	5	6
J Sutton	5	6
B Taylor (retired 31.8.25)	4	6

The Finance Committee formally met 4 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Finance Committee was as follows:

Governor/Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
G Austin	4	4
A Fearon	3	4
A Hines	4	4
M Shanks	3	4
M Wheatley	3	4

The Performance and Standards Committee met 6 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Committee was as follows:

Governor/Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
G Brown	3	6
A Fearon (left committee Dec 24)	2	2
J Gibbs (retired 6.10.25)	1	6
M Shanks	3	6
J Sutton	3	6
B Taylor	6	6

Education South West

Governance Statement

Year Ended 31 August 2025

Review of Value for Money

As accounting officer, the chief executive has responsibility for ensuring that the Academy Trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The accounting officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

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

The Trust has once again worked to ensure value for money across its schools.

Each school leadership team works with the Trust executive team to ensure every penny is utilised effectively. Savings have been identified where possible across all schools and resources put into frontline, classroom delivery.

The Deputy CEO and Directors of Education continue to provide the capacity, partnering with Headteachers in our schools, to ensure focus on impactful improvement strategies across all schools in the Trust. The Trust continues to invest in the development of the curriculum, high quality professional development for staff, trustees and governors.

Our specialist shared service teams utilise their expertise to seek efficiencies at all times and the operation we run continues to look to ensure that all resources go to making the experience for the child in the classroom the best it can be.

The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Academy Trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Education South West for the year ended 31 August 2025 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to Handle Risk

The trustees have reviewed the key risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the year ended 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.

Education South West

Governance Statement

Year Ended 31 August 2025

The Risk and Control Framework

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the trustees;
- regular reviews by the trustee assigned to Finance and the Finance Committee, and the Board, of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines.
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- identification and management of risks.

The board of trustees had considered the need for a specific internal audit function and decided to appoint M. Wheatley, a member of the Finance Committee to carry out a programme of internal checks. The checks carried out in the current period included testing to assess:

- the risk that suppliers are not being paid in a timely manner;
- the risk that bank reconciliations are not being completed, reviewed and signed to confirm review;
- the risk that new supplier authorisation forms are improperly authorised;
- the risk that suspense accounts are not cleared or reconciled;
- the risk that stock reconciliations do not warn of stock misappropriation;
- the risk that debts are not recovered.

Following each visit, a report is forwarded to the Chair of the Finance Committee, and annually a report encompassing all of the reports is presented to the Finance Committee. The planned schedule of works has been carried out, and no control issues have arisen.

In 25-26 the Trust will buy-in an internal audit service.

Review of Effectiveness

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

- regular update meetings with the Chief Financial and Operating Officer, setting of budgets, and detailed review of management information;
- the requirement of the Chief Financial and Operating Officer to provide detailed financial reports to the Board and the Finance Committee;
- review of the reports of the internal controls reviewer which have not given rise to any internal control weaknesses;
- review of the risk register with Trustees;
- expert external governance professional support;
- fortnightly meetings with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board to consider risk, control and governance matters.

The accounting officer has been advised by and attends the finance and risk committee.

Based on the advice of the finance 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.

Education South West

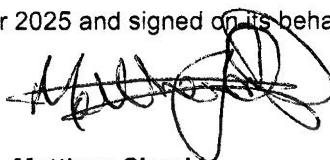
Governance Statement

Year Ended 31 August 2025

Approved by order of the Board on 11th December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Graham Austin
Chair



Matthew Shanks
Accounting Officer

Education South West

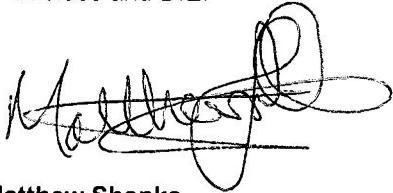
Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance

Year Ended 31 August 2025

As accounting officer of Education South West, 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 2024, 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 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.



Matthew Shanks
Accounting Officer

Education South West

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

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 2024 to 2025 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024-25;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charitable Company will continue in business.

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

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

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

Approved by order the Board on 11th December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Graham Austin
Chair

Education South West

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Education South West

Year Ended 31 August 2025

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Education South West (the 'Academy') for the year ended 31 August 2025, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows and Notes to the Financial Statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

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, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information (covers the Reference and Administrative Details, the Trustees' Report and the Governance Statement)

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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

Education South West

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Education South West

Year Ended 31 August 2025

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 Governance Statement and Trustees' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Governance Statement and Trustees' Report 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 company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Governance Statement and Trustees' Report.

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

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

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities [set out on page 19], the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Academy'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.

Auditor Responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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:

As part of our audit planning we obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that is applicable to the entity and the education sector in which it operates to identify the key laws and

Education South West

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Education South West

Year Ended 31 August 2025

regulations affecting the entity. The key laws and regulations we identified were compliance with the funding agreement and Academies Financial Handbook 2024 and requirements with regard to safeguarding.

We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements, primarily the Academies Accounts Direction 2024/25, Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

We discussed with management how the compliance with these laws and regulations is monitored and discussed the policies and procedures in place. We also identified the individuals who have responsibility for ensuring that the entity complies with laws and regulations and deals with reporting any issues if they arise.

As part of our planning procedures, we assessed the risk of any non-compliance with laws and regulations on the entity's ability to continue operating and the risk of material misstatement to the accounts.

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

- Conducting detailed regularity testing in accordance with the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountant of Academy Trusts as issued by the DfE, as reported on separately in our Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report;
- Reviewed Board and Finance Committee minutes for indications of non compliance;
- Reviewed legal and professional costs to identify legal costs in respect of non compliance;
- Discussed the procedures in place for ensuring the safeguarding of pupils, including DBS checks and identified those staff and governors with responsibility for overseeing these areas;
- Reviewed the accounts disclosures against those in the Academies Model Accounts 2024 to 2025, published by the DfE.

As part of our enquiries we discussed with management whether there have been any known instances, allegations or suspicions of fraud of which there were none.

We also evaluated the risk of fraud through management override including that arising from management's incentives. We determined that these risks are low as the academy operates on a charitable, not for profit basis and so there would be no motivation for management to influence performance for individual gain. However, there was considered a risk of the inappropriate allocation of expenditure against restricted funds.

In response to the identified risk, as part of our audit work we:

- Reviewed the material restricted grant income sources, identified the related conditions and reviewed the nature of expenditure set against it for appropriateness, together with sample testing on expenditure;
- Used data analytics to test journal entries throughout the period, for appropriateness;
- Reviewed accounting estimates and judgements made in the accounts for any indication of bias and challenged assumptions used by management in making the estimates.

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. This risk increases the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements as we are less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

Education South West

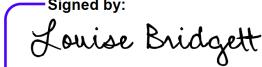
Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Education South West

Year Ended 31 August 2025

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the 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 auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Academy's Members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Signed by:

.....006DF78DEBD3402.....

Louise Bridgett (Senior Statutory Auditor)
PKF Francis Clark, Statutory Auditor

Melville Building East
Unit 18
23 Royal William Yard,
Plymouth
PL1 3GW
Date:.....16 December 2025

Education South West

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Education South West and the Department for Education

Year Ended 31 August 2025

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 23 October 2025 and further to the requirements of the Department for Education (DfE) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Education South West during the period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to Education South West and the Secretary of State for Education in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we may state to Education South West and the DfE 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 Education South West and the DfE, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the Governing Body's Accounting Officer and the Reporting Accountant

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of Education South West's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education and the Academy Trust Handbook 2024, 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 Academies Accounts Direction 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 from 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.

The Trust's responsibilities with regards to estates safety and management are not included within the scope of our engagement.

Approach

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- Inspection and review of documentation providing evidence of governance procedures
- Evaluation of the system of internal controls for authorisation and approval

Education South West

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Education South West and the Department for Education

Year Ended 31 August 2025

- Performing substantive tests on relevant transactions

Conclusion

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

Signed by:



Louise Bridgett (Senior Statutory Auditor)
PKF Francis Clark, Statutory Auditor

Melville Building East
Unit 18
23 Royal William Yard,
Plymouth
PL1 3GW
Date: 16 December 2025

Education South West

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

				Restricted		
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Fixed	Total	Total
	Note	Funds	General	Asset	2025	2024
Income & endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	2	1	13	2,065	2,079	968
Transfer from academy trust	2	-	-	-	-	6,001
Transfer from local authority	2	-	-	-	-	4,603
Charitable Activities						
Funding for the Academy's educational operations	5	2,000	47,503	-	49,503	45,601
Initial Teacher Training	5	-	915	-	915	176
Teaching schools	5	-	653	-	653	748
Other Trading Activities	3	599	349	-	948	1,169
Investments	4	136	-	-	136	134
Total		2,736	49,433	2,065	54,234	59,400
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	6	17	-	-	17	17
Charitable activities:						
Academy's educational operations	7	1,866	46,893	3,896	52,655	49,094
Initial Teaching Training	6	-	965	-	965	395
Teaching Schools	6	-	646	-	646	683
Total		1,883	48,504	3,896	54,283	50,189
Net income before transfers		853	929	(1,831)	(49)	9,211
Gross transfers between funds	19	(1,053)	(284)	1,337	-	-
Net (expenditure)/income for the year		(200)	645	(494)	(49)	9,211
Other recognised gains and losses						
Actuarial gain on defined benefit pension schemes	19,28	-	1,299	-	1,299	705
Net movement in funds		(200)	1,944	(494)	1,250	9,916
Reconciliation of funds						
Funds brought forward at 1 September 2024		1,620	237	116,880	118,737	108,821
Funds carried forward at 31 August 2025		1,420	2,181	116,386	119,987	118,737

Education South West

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2024 (including Income and Expenditure Account)

The statement on this page provides the detailed comparatives for the year ended 31 August 2024.

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted General Funds £000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £000	Total 2024 £000
Income & endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	2	2	26	940	968
Transfer from academy trust	2	47	25	5,929	6,001
Transfer from local authority	2	-	(54)	4,657	4,603
Charitable Activities					
Funding for the Academy's educational operations	5	1,916	43,685	-	45,601
Initial Teacher Training	5	-	176		176
Teaching schools	5	-	748	-	748
Other Trading Activities	3	847	322	-	1,169
Investments	4	134	-	-	134
Total		2,946	44,928	11,526	59,400
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	6	17	-	-	17
Charitable activities:					
Academy's educational operations	7	1,937	43,723	3,434	49,094
Initial Teacher Training	6	-	395	-	395
Teaching Schools	6	-	683	-	683
Total		1,954	44,801	3,434	50,189
Net income before transfers		992	127	8,092	9,211
Gross transfers between funds	19	(802)	(461)	1,263	-
Net income/(expenditure) for the year		190	(334)	9,355	9,211
Other recognised gains and losses					
Actuarial surplus on defined benefit pension schemes	19,28	-	705	-	705
Net movement in funds		190	371	9,355	9,916
Reconciliation of funds					
Funds brought forward at 1 September 2023		1,430	(134)	107,525	108,821
Funds carried forward at 31 August 2024		1,620	237	116,880	118,737

Education South West

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2025
Registration number 7451553

	Notes	2025 £000	2025 £000	2024 £000	2024 £000
Fixed assets					
Intangible assets	13		51		87
Tangible assets	14		115,122		116,246
Current assets					
Stock	15	95		93	
Debtors	16	2,785		2,650	
Cash at bank and in hand		6,158		4,774	
		9,038		7,517	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	17	(4,200)		(3,470)	
Net current assets			4,838		4,047
Totals assets less current liabilities			120,011		120,380
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	18		(24)		(46)
Net assets excluding pension liability			119,987		120,334
Pension scheme liability			-		(1,597)
Total net assets			119,987		118,737
Funds of the academy Trust:					
Restricted funds					
Fixed asset funds	19	116,386		116,880	
General funds	19	2,181		1,834	
Pension reserve	19	-		(1,597)	
Total restricted funds		118,567		117,117	
Unrestricted funds	19	1,420		1,620	
		1,420		1,620	
Total funds		119,987		118,737	

The financial statements on pages 27-56 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 11 December 2025 and are signed on their behalf by:



Graham Austin
Chair

Education South West

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2025

	Notes	2025 £000	2024 £000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	22	1,937	345
Cash flows from investing activities	23	(553)	(2,613)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		1,384	(2,268)
 Cash and cash equivalents as 1 September 2024		4,774	7,042
Cash and cash equivalents as 31 August 2025	25	6,158	4,774

Education South West

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

1. Statement of Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements of the Academy Trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by the DfE, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

Education South West meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102.

Going Concern

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

Income

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

- **Grants receivable**

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 entitlement of receipt its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the year for which it is receivable, and any unspent amount is reflected as a balance in the restricted general fund. Capital grants are recognised when receivable and are not deferred over the life of the asset on which they are expended. Unspent amounts of capital grants are reflected in the balance in the restricted fixed asset fund.

- **Sponsorship income**

Sponsorship income provided to the Academy Trust which amounts to a donation is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which it is receivable, where the receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

- **Donations**

Donations are recognised on a receivable basis where receipt is probable, and the amount can be reliably measured. Donations in kind are recorded as unrestricted income.

- **Other income**

Other income, including the hire of facilities, is recognised in the period it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

- **Transfer of existing academies into the academy trust**

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

Education South West

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

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 Trust to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

- **Charitable activities**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Intangible Fixed Assets

Intangible assets are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable, and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably. Intangible assets are initially recognised at cost and are subsequently measured at cost net of amortisation and any provision for impairment. Amortisation is provided on intangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life. The only intangible assets owned by the Trust are computer software for which the expected useful life coincides with the terms of the license.

Tangible Fixed Assets

Assets 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. 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 such assets is charged to the restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities so as to reduce the fund over the useful economic life of the related asset on a basis consistent with the Academy Trust's depreciation policy.

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

Computer equipment	20%
Plant and equipment	33%
Fixtures and fittings	25%
Motor Vehicles	33%

Buildings are depreciated over 50 years. Assets in the course of construction are included at cost. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use.

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.

Education South West

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

Liabilities

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

Stock

Stocks of catering provisions, cleaning consumables, and stationary are valued at cost.

Financial Instruments

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

Financial assets – trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 16. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

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

Taxation

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

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

Pensions Benefits

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

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

The LGPS is a funded multi-employer scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the Academy Trust in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to net income/(expenditure) are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred.

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

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 on other recognised gains and losses.

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

Fund Accounting

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

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

Restricted general funds comprise all other restricted funds received and include grants from the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 28 will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 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.

As at 31 August 2025, the actuarial valuation for the Trust includes a surplus totalling £4,670,000 (PY: not a surplus). This surplus has not been recognised within the financial statements.

High UK corporate bond yields have resulted in high accounting discount rates which contributed to the closing surplus position. There is no specific guidance in FRS 102 in relation to surplus balances, therefore reference has been made to IAS 19. This requires any surplus recognition to be limited to the present value of economic benefits available in the form of either refunds or reduced future contributions (the asset ceiling).

The right to a refund would occur in the form of a credit payable to the Trust, for example on exiting the pension fund. Whether any refund is provided is governed by Regulation 64 of the 2013 Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations and set out in the specific local authority funding strategy statement. The payment of this credit is at the discretion of the local authority based on a variety of pre-determined factors. Given there are no circumstances to suggest an exit from the fund and the determination of any credit is outside the control of the Trust, there is no basis to recognise any surplus.

Education South West

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

With regards to reduced contributions, IAS 19 references minimum funding requirements used by certain schemes which limit the scope for contribution reductions. The LGPS administering authority must obtain a rates and adjustments certificate every three years that shows the contributions to be paid by each employer to the pension fund for the following three years, thereby limiting the availability of any contribution reductions. Additionally, the local authority funding strategy statement provides for potential reductions in future contributions, but these would be at the discretion of the local authority with, in the majority of cases, academies being part of a stabilisation approach which sets a limit on any change to contributions e.g. to 1% of pay per year. This suggests minimum funding requirements are applicable to the Trust as determined by IAS19. When actuary asset ceiling calculations assume that minimum funding requirements exist, they provide an asset ceiling value of £Nil.

Based on the above, it cannot be determined that a flow of future benefits is probable therefore no asset has been recognised.

Agency Arrangements

The Trust acts as agent in distributing 16-19 bursary funds from DfE. Payments received from DfE and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the statement of financial activities as the Trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The Academy Trust can use up to 2% of the allocation towards its own administration costs and this is recognised in the statement of financial activities. The funds received and paid, and any balances held are disclosed in note 30.

In addition, the Trust acts as agent in the distribution of ITT bursaries. Payments received from DfE and subsequent disbursements to trainee teachers are excluded from the statement of financial activities as the Trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The funds received and paid, and any balances held are disclosed in note 30.

Education South West

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

2 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted General Funds £000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £000	Total 2025 £000	Total 2024 £000
Donated Capital funds	-	-	81	81	98
Devolved Formula Capital allocations	-	-	160	160	156
Other donations	1	13	-	14	28
Schools Condition Allocation	-	-	1,653	1,653	630
Dfe T Level Grant	-	-	-	-	51
Capital allocation from LA	-	-	171	171	5
Transfer from LA	-	-	-	-	4,603
Transfer from academy trust	-	-	-	-	6,001
	<u>1</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>2,065</u>	<u>2,079</u>	<u>11,572</u>

3 Other Trading Activities

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted General Funds £000	Total 2025 £000	Total 2024 £000
Educational lecturing/consultancy	187	-	187	428
Community & Letting income	295	-	295	264
Miscellaneous income	117	-	117	155
Preschool Income	-	274	274	216
Student contributions	-	75	75	106
	<u>599</u>	<u>349</u>	<u>948</u>	<u>1,169</u>

4 Investment Income

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted General Funds £000	Total 2025 £000	Total 2024 £000
Interest on short term deposits	136	-	136	134
	<u>136</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>136</u>	<u>134</u>

Education South West

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

5 Funding for Academy's educational operations

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted General Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£000	£000	£000	£000
DfE revenue grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	34,641	34,641	31,784
16-19 Core Education Funding	-	3,775	3,775	3,747
UIFSM	-	264	264	224
Mainstream Schools Additional Grant	-	-	-	1,115
Teacher Pay Additional Grant	-	593	593	572
Teacher Pension Grant	-	947	947	474
Rates Reimbursement Grant	-	287	287	270
PE Grant	-	160	160	154
Pupil Premium Recovery Grant	-	-	-	303
Core Budget School Grant	-	1,393	1,393	-
National Insurance Grant	-	253	253	-
Pupil Premium	-	1,611	1,611	1,525
Other DfE grants	-	88	88	171
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Other Government grants				
SEN from LA	-	1,655	1,655	1,543
Other Funds from LA	-	578	578	696
Other Income	-	508	508	320
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Other Income				
Catering Income	2,000	-	2,000	1,916
Other Income	-	750	750	787
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,000	47,503	49,503	45,601
Initial Teacher Training				
Dfe Grants	-	181	181	19
Other Income	-	734	734	157
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	915	915	176
Teaching School Hub				
Dfe Grants	-	312	312	300
Other Income	-	341	341	448
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	653	653	748

Education South West

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

6 Expenditure

	Staff Costs £000	Non Pay Expenditure Premises £000	Other Costs £000	Total 2025 £000	Total 2024 £000
Expenditure on raising funds					
Allocated support costs	-	-	17	17	17
Academy's educational operations					
Direct costs	33,542	-	4,018	37,560	34,024
Allocated support costs	5,579	6,413	3,012	15,004	14,799
Redundancy costs	89	-	-	89	232
Severance payments	2	-	-	2	39
Initial Teacher Training					
Direct Costs	305	-	315	620	351
Allocated Support Costs	345	-	-	345	44
Teaching School Hub					
Direct Costs	238	-	352	590	630
Allocated support costs	56	-	-	56	53
	40,156	6,413	7,714	54,283	50,189

Net (expenditure)/income for the year is after charging:

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Fees payable to auditor - audit	27	26
Fees payable to auditor - other services	9	7
Depreciation	3,728	3,398
Amortisation of intangible fixed assets	36	36
Loss on disposal of assets	132	-
Operating Leases – plant and machinery	65	73

Education South West

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

7 Charitable Activities

	Total 2025 £000	Total 2024 £000
Direct Costs – educational operations	38,180	34,504
Support Costs – educational operations	15,440	14,985
	53,620	49,489

Analysis of support costs	Educational Operations £000	Total 2025 £000	Total 2024 £000
Support Staff Costs	5,698	5,698	5,393
Depreciation	3,728	3,728	3,398
Technology Costs	798	798	648
Premises Costs	2,682	2,682	2,985
Other Support Costs	2,430	2,430	2,471
Governance Costs	104	104	90
Total Support Costs	15,440	15,440	14,985

8 Staff costs and employee benefits

Staff costs during the period were:	2025 £000	2024 £000
Wages and salaries	29,010	26,946
Social security costs	3,278	2,705
Pension costs	7,010	5,883
	39,298	35,534
Supply teacher costs	767	646
Redundancy costs	89	232
Compensation costs	2	-
Severance costs	-	39
	40,156	36,451

The compensation costs above relate to one individual.

Education South West

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

The average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the Academy Trust during the year was as follows:

	2025 No.	2024 No.
Teachers	369	365
Education support	308	309
Administration and support	169	172
Management	55	54
	901	900

Higher Paid Staff

The number of employees whose emoluments exceed £60,000 was:

	2025 No.	2024 No.
£60,001 - £70,000	23	16
£70,001 - £80,000	14	11
£80,001 - £90,000	6	6
£90,001 - £100,000	3	2
£100,000 - £110,000	3	-
£110,000 - £120,000	-	6
£120,000 - £130,000	4	-
£130,000 - £140,000	1	-
£140,000 - £150,000	-	-
£150,000 - £160,000	-	1
£160,000 - £170,000	-	-
£170,000 - £180,000	1	-

Of the above employees, 51 (2024: 39) participated in the Teachers' Pension Scheme. During the year ended 31 August 2025, pension contributions for these employees amounted to £1,163,350 (2024: £802,164).

Education South West

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

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Trust comprise the trustees, the senior management team listed on page 1, and the leadership teams of each academy in the Trust. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Trust was £6,713,802 (2024: £5,492,294).

9 Central Services

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

- human resources
- financial, accounting and procurement services
- legal services
- management of the catering operation
- facilities management
- IT services
- communications and marketing
- educational support services

The staff and related costs with respect to the provision of these services is allocated to the individual academies in the Trust according to affordability, shared based on core pupil funding as a proportion of the total core pupil funding for the Trust.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Kingsbridge Academy	957	911
Dartmouth Academy	338	313
Blackawton Primary School	81	76
Stoke Fleming Primary School	89	84
East Allington Primary School	66	69
Kingswear Primary School	-	28
Coombeshead Academy	719	678
Teign School	819	733
Rydon Primary School	236	229
Christow Primary School	64	60
South Devon UTC	221	163
King Edward VI Community College	722	687
Wynstrem Primary School	219	205
Kingsbridge Primary School	208	114
Kingsteignton Primary School	135	69
	<hr/> 4,874	<hr/> 4,419

10 Related Parties Transactions - Trustees' remuneration and expenses

Trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the role of CEO and Executive Principal and not in respect of their services as trustees. Local governors did not receive any payments from the Trust in respect of their role as governors. The value of the trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

Education South West

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

M Shanks (CEO and Executive Principal):

Remuneration £170,000-£180,000 (2024: £150,000-£160,000)
 Employers pension contributions £45,000-£50,000 (2024: £40,000-£45,000)

During the year M Shanks earned for the Trust £63,500 from school improvement activities, and £670 from Ofsted inspections, and £9,450 from leadership training.

11 Governors' and Officers' Insurance

The Trust has registered all of the academies in the Trust with the Risk Protection Arrangement programme administered by the Department of Education; the cost is not separately identifiable under the Risk Protection Arrangement. The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

12 Connected Charities

Parents and friends of some of the academies in the Trust have five registered charitable operations with the purpose of raising funds for the academy Trust. The results of three of them are as follows. The results for the Rydon Primary association have not been disclosed as it does not consider itself to be connected to the Trust under the definition in paragraph 28(1) of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011. The treasurer for the Stoke Fleming Primary association has been unable to provide completed accounts.

Name of registered charity	Kingsbridge Community College PTFA £000	Friends of Blackawton Primary School £000	Christow County Primary School PTFA £000	Kingsbridge Primary School PTFA £000	Kingsteignton Primary School PTFA £000
Cash	16	8	13	20	7
Income for the year to 31.8.25	45	7	22	20	7
Expenditure for the year to 31.8.25	(50)	(9)	(16)	(28)	(6)
Annual surplus/(deficit)	(5)	(2)	6	(8)	1

KEVICC Foundation Governors are a registered charity set up to promote education and provide financial assistance for the students of King Edward VI Community College. £101k (2024: £90k) has been recognised as income, for which a debtor is included on the balance sheet. The Foundation has been unable to provide completed accounts.

Education South West

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

13 Intangible Fixed Assets

	Computer Software	Total
	£000	£000
Cost		
At 1 September 2024	340	340
Additions	-	-
At 31 August 2025	340	340
Depreciation		
At 1 September 2024	253	253
Charged in year	36	36
At 31 August 2025	289	289
Net book values		
At 31 August 2025	51	51
At 31 August 2024	87	87

14 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold Land and Buildings £000	Leasehold Land and Buildings £000	Computer Equipment £000	Plant & Equipment £000	Fixtures & Fittings £000	Motor Vehicles £000	Total £000
Cost							
At 1 September 2024	96,555	36,486	5,404	2,324	1,175	246	142,190
Disposals	-	(223)	(14)	(14)	(5)	(18)	(274)
Additions	857	491	833	466	57	50	2,754
At 31 August 2025	97,412	36,754	6,223	2,776	1,227	278	144,670
Depreciation							
At 1 September 2024	16,259	3,363	3,682	1,588	895	157	25,944
Disposals	-	(74)	(14)	(14)	(4)	(18)	(124)
Charged in year	1,867	628	633	436	111	53	3,728
At 31 August 2025	18,126	3,917	4,301	2,010	1,002	192	29,548
Net book values							
At 31 August 2025	79,286	32,837	1,922	766	225	86	115,122
At 31 August 2024	80,296	33,123	1,722	736	280	89	116,246

Education South West

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

15 Stock

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Stationery Supplies	45	38
Cleaning Supplies	19	20
Catering Supplies	27	33
Other	4	2
Total Stock	95	93

16 Debtors

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Trade debtors	266	425
Prepayments	1,244	1,272
Other debtors	116	91
Grant and other income	914	645
VAT recoverable	245	217
	2,785	2,650

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Trade creditors	1,540	990
Other taxation and social security	737	632
Other creditors	936	917
Accruals and deferred income	987	931
	4,200	3,470

Deferred income

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Brought forward	455	373
Resources deferred in the year	551	455
Amounts released from previous years	(455)	(373)
Deferred Income at 31 August 2025	551	455

Deferred Income includes DfE devolved formula capital £92,000 (2024 - £94,000), Universal Infant Free School Meal funding, £156,000 (2024 - £151,000), Rates reimbursement grant, £168,000 (2024 - 0), and funds received from parents for future trips £98,000 (2024 - £142,000).

18 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Loan	24	46

The loan is from Salix, and is interest free and repayable over 8 years, and the final repayment is due 2026-27.

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

19 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2024 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Gains, Losses and Transfers £000	Balance at 31 August 2025 £000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	1,236	38,416	(38,054)	116	1,714
UIFSM	-	264	(264)	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	1,611	(1,611)	-	-
Other DfE grants	223	3,721	(3,721)	-	223
LEA and other grants	375	4,309	(4,040)	(400)	244
Other General Funds	-	1,099	(1,099)	-	-
Donated Funds	-	13	(13)	-	-
	1,834	49,433	(48,802)	(284)	2,181
Pension Fund Reserve	(1,597)	-	298	1,299	-
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Fixed Asset Fund	116,246	-	(3,860)	2,736	115,122
Intangible Fixed Asset Fund	87	-	(36)	-	51
DfE capital grants	264	1,813	-	(1,116)	961
Other capital funds	23	252	-	(252)	23
Other transferred from academy trust	80	-	-	(18)	62
Other transferred from foundation school	145	-	-	(13)	132
Other transferred from LA	35	-	-	-	35
	116,880	2,065	(3,896)	1,337	116,386
Total restricted funds	117,117	51,498	(52,400)	2,352	118,567
Unrestricted funds					
Unrestricted funds	1,620	2,736	(1,883)	(1,053)	1,420
Total unrestricted funds	1,620	2,736	(1,883)	(1,053)	1,420
Total funds	118,737	54,234	(54,283)	1,299	119,987

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

Education South West

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

Restricted General Funds

The General Annual Grant (GAG) is applied in strict accordance with the terms of the Model Fund Agreement executed on the 20th December 2010, and varied to re-state the terms to form a multi-Academy Trust on the 29th August 2014, which prescribes that this funding is used to cover the normal running costs of the Academy. Under the Funding Agreement there are no limits on the amount of GAG which can be carried forward.

Other DfE Grants includes £1,611,000 (2024 - £1,525,000) Pupil Premium which is used by the Trust to raise attainment in pupils from low-income families which has been spent during the year; also included is Universal Infant Free School Meal funding of £264,000 (2024 - £224,000).

£287,000 (2024 - £270,000) was received from the DfE to cover business rates, £160,000 (2024 - £154,000) to support primary PE.

In addition, £1,393,000 (2024 - £-) Core Schools Budget Grant, and £1,540,000 (2024 - £1,046,000) Teacher Pay and pension grants were received.

£218,000 of the Other DfE balance carried forward is held as a reserve to protect against financial risk and was brought forward at the beginning of the financial period.

LEA and other grants income include £1,655,000 (2024 - £1,543,000) funding to support specific provisions for pupils with special educational needs, £354,000 (2024 - £291,000) preschool childcare, and £154,000 (2024 - £115,000) to support community nursery outreach support.

In addition, £1,568,000 (2024 - £924,000) was received in relation to Teaching School activities.

The carried forward balance for LEA and other grants includes South West Institute for Teaching funds 239,000, ITT deficit of £327,000, Young Enterprise £31,000, Teacher training £27,000 and numerous other small fund balances.

Other General Funds represents contributions from students £75,000 (2024 - £106,000), preschool income from parents £274,000 (2024 - £217,000), and £750,000 (2024 - £786,000) relating to school trips.

The Pension Fund Reserve with respect to the Local Government Pension Scheme is Nil.

The DfE capital grants represents funding specifically provided to support capital expenditures on fixed assets. The Fixed Asset Fund represents the current value of all fixed assets owned by the Trust plus carried forward unspent capital grants and capital donations. Capital grant income included £160,000 (2024 - £156,000) Devolved Formula Capital, and £1,653,000 (2024 - £630,000) Schools Condition Allocation, and £170,000 (2024 - £-) S106 grant.

Unrestricted Funds

Unrestricted Funds can be applied at the discretion of the trustees. Funds were generated during the year from the catering operations £2,000,000 (2024 - £1,916,000), rental of academy premises to community groups £295,000 (2024 - £264,000), fees for consultancy to other educational institutions £187,000 (2024 - £428,000).

Transfers

The net transfer from the General Annual Grant, LEA and Other Grants and the Unrestricted Funds to the Restricted Fixed Asset (£1,205,000) fund represents expenditure from these funds on fixed assets.

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

Analysis of academies by fund balance

Fund balances at 31 August 2025 were allocated as follows:

	Total £000
Kingsbridge Academy	1,160
Dartmouth Academy	197
Blackawton Primary Academy	276
Stoke Fleming Primary Academy	65
East Allington Primary Academy	(26)
Coombeshead Academy	398
Teign School	100
Rydon Primary School	494
Christow Primary School	152
Central Services	650
South Devon UTC	(379)
King Edward VI Community College	340
Kingsbridge Primary School	(50)
Kingsteignton Primary School	(5)
Wynstream Primary School	229
Total before fixed assets and pension reserve	3,601
Restricted fixed asset fund	-
Pension reserve	-
Total	3,601

East Allington Primary Academy carries forward a deficit. Prior to converting to academy status, four primary schools (Blackawton, Stoke Fleming, East Allington and Kingswear) were run by the Local Authority under a single budget. The Trust whilst recognising the individual surpluses and deficits of the component primary academies (not including the pension deficit effect) is supporting the necessary provision of primary education in these communities recognising a degree of financial offset.

South Devon UTC was transferred to the Trust in February 2021 with a very low roll, requiring a start-up strategy to be employed. The DfE have not provided start-up funding and therefore a deficit strategy is in place in order to support the continued growth of the school since the relaunch of the school from September 2021, with planned recovery in the future.

Kingsbridge Primary School, which joined the Trust in February 2024, was already running a deficit financial position as one of a federation of local authority schools. A plan is in place to recalibrate the cost base looking forward, and return the school to a positive reserves position.

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

Analysis of academies by cost

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

	Teaching and Educational Support Staff Costs £000	Other Support Staff Costs £000	Educational Supplies £000	Other Costs (excluding depreciation) £000	Total £000
Kingsbridge Academy	6,313	728	141	2,722	9,904
Dartmouth Academy	2,205	313	44	1,063	3,625
Blackawton Primary Academy	731	93	6	212	1,042
Stoke Fleming Primary Academy	628	76	10	256	970
East Allington Primary Academy	455	50	3	176	684
Coombeshead Academy	4,554	409	74	1,914	6,951
Teign School	5,432	449	125	1,987	7,993
Rydon Primary Academy	1,587	147	28	476	2,238
Christow Primary Academy	417	59	5	152	633
South Devon UTC	1,230	111	20	633	1,994
King Edward VI Community College	4,724	524	108	2,095	7,450
Wynstrem Primary School	1,486	148	23	677	2,334
Kingsbridge Primary School	1,474	109	27	487	2,097
Kingsteignton Primary School	980	151	19	389	1,539
Central Services	1,908	3,015	11	(3,704)	1,230
Academy Trust	34,124	6,382	644	9,535	50,685

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

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

Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2023	Income	Expenditure	Gains, Losses and Transfers	Balance at 31 August 2024
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	1,651	35,532	(35,559)	(388)	1,236
UIFSM	-	224	(224)	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	1,525	(1,525)	-	-
Other DfE grants	229	3,060	(3,066)	-	223
LEA and other grants	526	3,484	(3,562)	(73)	375
Other General Funds	-	1,109	(1,109)	-	-
Donated Funds	-	26	(26)	-	-
	2,406	44,960	(45,071)	(461)	1,834
Pension Fund Reserve	(2,540)	(32)	270	705	(1,597)
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Fixed Asset Fund	105,426	10,459	(3,398)	3,759	116,246
Intangible Fixed Asset Fund	68	-	(36)	55	87
DfE capital grants	1,336	836	-	(1,908)	264
Other transferred from academy trust	-	97	-	(17)	80
Other transferred from foundation school	293	-	-	(148)	145
Other transferred from LA	18	30	-	(13)	35
Other capital funds	384	104	-	(465)	23
	107,525	11,526	(3,434)	1,263	116,880
Total restricted funds	107,391	56,454	(48,235)	1,507	117,117
Unrestricted funds					
Unrestricted funds	1,430	2,946	(1,954)	(802)	1,620
Total unrestricted funds	1,430	2,946	(1,954)	(802)	1,620
Total funds	108,821	59,400	(50,189)	705	118,737

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

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2025 are represented by:

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted General Funds £000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £000	Total Funds £000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	115,122	115,122
Intangible assets	-	-	51	51
Current assets	1,420	6,405	1,213	9,038
Current liabilities	-	(4,200)	-	(4,200)
Non-current liabilities	-	(24)	-	(24)
Total net assets	1,420	2,181	116,386	119,987

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

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted General Funds £000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £000	Total Funds £000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	116,246	116,246
Intangible assets	-	-	87	87
Current assets	1,620	5,350	547	7,517
Current liabilities	-	(3,470)	-	(3,470)
Non-current liabilities	-	(46)	-	(46)
Pension scheme liability	-	(1,597)	-	(1,597)
Total net assets	1,620	237	116,880	118,737

21 Operating Leases

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

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Amounts due within one year	45	54
Amounts due between two and five years	101	67
Amounts due after five years	11	5
	157	126

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

		2025 £000	2024 £000
22 Reconciliation of net (expenditure)/income to net cash inflow from operating activities			
Net (expenditure)/income		(49)	9,211
Amortisation (note 13)		36	36
Depreciation (note 14)		3,728	3,398
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income		(2,065)	(11,526)
Interest receivable (note 4)		(136)	(134)
Cash proceeds on disposal of fixed assets		19	-
Loss on disposal of fixed assets		132	-
Defined benefit pension scheme obligation inherited		-	32
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable (note 28)		51	102
Defined benefit pension scheme finance costs (Note 28)		(349)	(372)
Increase in stocks		(3)	(8)
Increase in debtors		(135)	(7)
(Increase)/Decrease in creditors		708	(387)
Net cash inflow from operating activities		1,937	345
23 Cash flows from investing activities			
		At 31 August 2025	At 31 August 2024
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		136	134
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(2,754)	(3,759)
Purchase of intangible fixed assets		-	(55)
Capital grants from DfE		1,813	836
Capital funding donated from others		252	231
Net cash (used in) investing activities		(553)	(2,613)
24 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents			
		At 31 August 2025	At 31 August 2024
		£000	£000
Cash in hand		6,158	4,774
Total cash and cash equivalents		6,158	4,774
25 Analysis of changes in net funds			
		At 1 Sept 2024	At 31 August 2025
		£000	£000
Cash		4,774	6,158
Loans falling due after more than one year		(46)	(24)
		4,728	6,134
		1,384	1,406
		22	

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

26 Contingent Liabilities

There are no contingent liabilities.

27 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.

28 Pension and similar obligations

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 Peninsular Pensions. Both are multi-employer defined-benefit schemes.

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was 31 March 2020 and of the LGPS 31 March 2022.

Contributions amounting to £821,000 (2024 - £776,000) were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2025 and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

The Teachers' Pension Scheme ("TPS") is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pensions Regulations 2014. Membership is automatic for 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 members and employer make 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 four 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 and subsequent consultation are:

- Employer contribution rates set at 28.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% employer 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 the future benefits) for service to the effective date of £262,000 million, and notional assets (estimated

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

future contributions together with notional investments held at valuation date) of £222,200 million, giving a past service deficit of £39,800 million.

The result of this valuation was implemented on 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 period amounted to £5,379,000 (2024: £4,390,000).

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

Under the definitions set out in FRS102, 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 under FRS 102 and has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The Trust has set out above the information available on the scheme.

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2025 was £2,614,965 (2024: £2,423,558), of which employer's contributions totalled £2,066,857 (2024: £1,906,682) and employees' contributions totalled £548,108 (2024: £515,598). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 22.9% per cent for employers and variable per cent for employees.

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

Principal Actuarial Assumptions	At 31 August 2025	At 31 August 2024
Rate of increase in salaries	3.50%	3.80%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment / inflation	2.50%	2.80%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.95%	5.05%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.50%	2.80%

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

	At 31 August 2025	At 31 August 2024
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	21.3	21.4
Females	24.0	22.7
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	22.9	22.7
Females	25.7	24.1

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

Sensitivity Analysis	At 31 August 2025 £000	At 31 August 2024 £000
Discount rate +0.1%	27,643	29,624
Discount rate -0.1%	28,507	30,653
Mortality assumption – 1 year increase	28,746	30,987
Mortality assumption – 1 year decrease	27,411	29,301

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

	Fair value at 31 August 2025 £000	Fair value at 31 August 2024 £000
UK Equities	735	511
Overseas Equities	16,501	15,016
Other bonds	7,556	6,577
Property	2,527	2,102
Infrastructure	3,237	2,949
Cash	870	713
Alternative Assets	(3)	10
Other assets	1,317	657
Total market value of assets	32,740	28,535

The actual return on scheme assets was £2,234,000 (2024: £2,969,000).

Amounts recognised in the balance sheet

	£000 2025	£000 2024
Asset	32,740	28,535
Asset ceiling adjustment	(4,670)	-
Obligation	(28,070)	(30,132)
Net asset/(liability)	-	(1,597)

The asset cap restriction has been recognised through an adjustment to the actuarial gain/loss recognised.

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

Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Current service cost	1,824	1,664
Net interest cost	30	85
Administration costs	21	17
Total amount recognised in SOFA	<u>1,875</u>	<u>1,766</u>

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

	2025 £000	2024 £000
At 1 September	30,132	25,516
Current service cost	1,772	1,580
Interest cost	1,521	1,388
Employee and other employer contributions	549	517
Actuarial (gain)/loss	(5,278)	1,905
Benefits paid	(678)	(826)
Plan introductions, benefit changes, curtailments and settlements	52	52
At 31 August	28,070	30,132

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

	2025 £000	2024 £000
At 1 September	28,535	22,976
Interest Income	1,491	1,303
Return on plan assets (excluding net interest on the net defined pension liability)	743	1,666
Employer contributions	2,121	1,952
Employee and other employer contributions	549	517
Benefits paid	(678)	(826)
Plan introductions, benefit changes, curtailments and settlements	(21)	947
At 31 August	32,740	28,535

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

29 Related Party Transactions

There are no related party transactions for the year ending 31 August 2025 other than certain trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 10.

30 Agency Arrangements

The Trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for DfE. In the accounting period 31 August 2025, the Trust received £121,000, (2024: £119,000) and distributed £115,000, (2024: £125,000) from the fund which included a brought forward balance of £151,000. An amount of £158,000 relating to undistributed funds repayable to DfE are netted with other grant income receivable from DfE and included in debtors.

In addition, the Trust distributes ITT bursaries, as agent for the DfE. In the accounting period 31 August 2025, the Trust received £951,000 (2024 £-) and distributed £938,000 (2024 £-). An amount of £13,000 relating to undistributed funds repayable to DfE are netted with other grant income receivable from DfE and included in debtors.

31 Long-term commitments

At 31 August 2025, the total of the academy trust's future minimum payments under other contractual commitments was:

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Amounts due within one year	146	140
Amounts due between one and five years	613	590
Amounts due after five years	493	639
	<hr/> 1,252	<hr/> 1,369

Wynstream Primary School occupies premises which are subject to a private finance initiative (PFI) contract. The trust itself is not party to this service concession contract; however, the trust has entered into a supporting agreement towards the costs of the local authority. The above relates to commitments to operating payments, excluding catering, cleaning and utilities.

32 Closure of Kingswear Primary School

Kingswear Primary School closed on 31.10.24. All assets and liabilities were transferred to the MAT, and included cash of £332k, net debtors and liabilities of £1k, and reserves of £333k. The leasehold for the school building of £223k was returned to the Church of England resulting in a loss in disposal of (£132k) recognised in the statement of financial activities; assets of £2k were transferred to the MAT.