

**Churchdown
School (Operating as
Churchdown School
Academy)**

**Annual Report and
Financial Statements
2024-2025**

CHURCHDOWN SCHOOL CONTENTS

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**CHURCHDOWN SCHOOL
REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

Trustees

Mr D Potter	Head Teacher and Accounting Officer	(appointed 1 September 2019)
Mrs P Scott-Plummer	Chair of Trustees Finance, Premises & Audit Committee	(appointed 6 July 2022) (appointed 9 December 2020) (resigned 27 August 2025)
Mr C Widden	Vice Chair of Trustees Finance, Premises & Audit Committee	(appointed 6 July 2022) (appointed 15 October 2014) (resigned 27 August 2025)
Mrs G Davie	Chair of Trustees Finance, Premises & Audit Committee	(appointed 27 August 2025) (appointed 16 May 2022)
Mrs J Harrison	Full Member	(appointed 6 June 2019)
Mrs L Webley	Full Member	(appointed 9 December 2020)
Mrs C Bailey	Trustee: Finance, Premises and Audit Committee	(appointed 29 March 2022)
Mr M Barton	Trustee: Finance, Premises & Audit Committee	(appointed 19 th June 2025)
Mrs P Church	Trustee	(appointed 22 February 2021)
Mrs G Parry	Trustee	(appointed 15 November 2023) (resigned 12 March 2025)
Mr D Walsh	Finance, Premises & Audit Committee	(appointed 16 May 2022)

Company Secretary

Mr A Hargreaves	(appointed 2 March 2020)
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Senior Leadership Team

Mr D Potter	Head Teacher
Mr J O'Connell	Senior Deputy Head Teacher
Miss J Hilton	Deputy Head Teacher
Mr D Carter	Assistant Head Teacher
Mr A Coates	Assistant Head Teacher
Mr A Hargreaves	Business Manager
Mr S Hastings	Assistant Head Teacher
Mrs R Jones	Assistant Head Teacher
Miss A Trainer	Assistant Head Teacher
Mrs M Whitson-Jones	Assistant Head Teacher

The Senior Leadership Team are the key management personnel of the academy.

**CHURCHDOWN SCHOOL
REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

Registered Office

Winston Road
Churchdown
Gloucester
GL3 2RB

Company Registration Number 07773693 (England and Wales)

Auditors

Hazlewoods LLP
Staverton Court
Staverton
Cheltenham
GL51 0UX

Bankers

Virgin Money	HSBC Bank Plc
Bering House	The Cross
Mariner Court	Gloucester
Clydebank Business Park	GL1 2AP
G81 2NR	

Solicitors

Harrison Clark Rickerbys LLP
Ellenborough House
Wellington Street
Cheltenham
GL50 1YD

**CHURCHDOWN SCHOOL
TRUSTEES' REPORT INCLUDING STRATEGIC REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

The Trustees present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the academy for the year ended 31 August 2025.

Constitution and Principal Activities

Churchdown School was a Foundation School that was granted permission to convert to an academy on 1 November 2011. The principal activity is to provide education to pupils aged 11-18 with a broad and balanced curriculum.

Churchdown School Academy (the "academy") is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. It was incorporated on 1 November 2011. The academy generally refers to itself as a School rather than a Company, to its Directors as Trustees and to the Principal as the Head Teacher. The academy's Memorandum and Articles of Association, together with the funding agreement are the primary governing documents of the academy.

The Trustees act for the charitable activities of the academy and are the directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law. Details of the Trustees who served throughout the 2024/25 year are listed on page 1.

Members' Liability

Each member of the academy 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.

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the academy has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The insurance provides unlimited cover, is administered by central Government and known as the Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA).

Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

The Trustees are directors of the company for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006 and Trustees for the purposes of charity legislation. The Trustees, who were in office at 31 August 2025 and served throughout the year, are listed in the Reference and Administrative Details set out on page 1.

Trustees are subject to retirement by rotation but are eligible for re-election at the meeting at which they retire. The term of office for any Trustee, other than the Head Teacher, is four years. All Trustees are also members of the academy Trust.

Parent Trustees are elected by parents of registered pupils at the academy and should be a parent of a pupil at the academy when elected. The Trustees may appoint up to three co-opted Trustees, up to 14 Trustees with no more than three employees of the academy trust.

Regard is given to the skills mix of the Trustees to ensure that the Board of Trustees has all the necessary skills required to contribute fully to the academy's development.

Trustees Induction and Training

On appointment, a skills audit is undertaken, highlighting where additional training is desirable. Trustees undergo a DBS check and a Section 128 check. All Trustees are given a tour of the academy and a chance to meet with staff and pupils. Trustees are provided with copies of policies and procedures, minutes, accounts and budgets, strategic plans, and other documents that they will need to undertake their role. As there are normally only one or two new Trustees a year, induction tends to be done informally and is tailored specifically to the individual.

Trustees are given membership to the National Governors Association, The Key, and the Local Authority Schoolsnet website link where they can obtain information and guidance and view training courses. Trustees also receive a school email address to ensure confidentiality and access to a Governors Office365 secure site. Trustees receive a copy of the School Development Plan, a list of all Trustees' contact details and members of the various sub-committees, as well as a calendar of meetings for the rest of the academic year. A copy of What's up Gov? (provided by the Local Authority) containing important information and courses is circulated to all Trustees as soon as they are released.

Organisational Structure

The Trustees are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual development plan and budget, monitoring the academy by the use of budgets and reports and making major decisions about the direction of the academy, capital expenditure and senior staff appointments. The Trustees also monitor the performance of the Senior Leadership Team.

The Board of Trustees has established a number of sub-committees to review policies and the performance of the academy in all areas, all of which report back to the Full Board of Trustees. Every member of the Board of Trustees sits on at least one sub-committee and the Head Teacher attends all sub-committee meetings along with other members of the academy's Senior Leadership Team as appropriate.

The Senior Leadership Team of the academy comprises the Head Teacher, one Senior Deputy Head Teacher, one Deputy Head Teacher, the Business Manager and six Assistant Head Teachers. This team controls the academy at an executive level implementing the policies laid down by the Trustees and reporting back accordingly. As a group, the Senior Leadership Team are responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets and the appointment of staff, although appointment decisions for management posts always involve a Trustee in the interview process. Some spending control is devolved to the Middle Leadership Team who each have budgets, with limits above which the Business Manager must countersign.

Arrangement for Setting Pay and Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

The Trustees consider the Senior Leadership Team as the key management personnel of the academy who lead on the management and operation of the academy on a daily basis.

Details of Trustees' remuneration and expenses are disclosed in note 10 to the accounts.

The pay of the Head Teacher and senior staff is reviewed annually based on performance and normally increased in accordance with average earnings. The remuneration is set to ensure it is both fair but also will attract and retain staff of the appropriate calibre and experience required by the academy.

Trade Union Facilities Time

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	Full-time equivalent employee number
1	0.80

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	0

Objectives and Activities

When setting the objectives of the academy, the Trustees give careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on the public benefit, and in particular to its supplementary guidance on advancing education. The academy aims to offer "more than a visible curriculum" by enriching pupils' experience of school with extensive opportunities for extra-curricular activities and a wide range of educational trips.

We aim to be a centre of high quality education where effective learning, provided in a supportive and caring environment, is the most important purpose of the school. We have committed and talented staff that work well together as a team.

Expectations of all staff and students are high and we are committed to continuous self-evaluation and improvement. We provide excellent staff development opportunities and are committed to promoting individual career development.

School Vision and Aims

We are committed to our vision of Achieving Success for All. That is, that no matter a child's background, gender or race, they would not receive a better education elsewhere and they achieve incredible success at Churchdown.

Our Mission

Our mission is to be a school where student development and learning are at the centre of everything we do. Students are expected to strive for personal excellence and demonstrate a commitment to learning as they fulfil their potential. Our community is a nurturing and caring one where students are encouraged to show compassion, friendship and support towards one another. We aim to provide an education which is fully inclusive, where every child is valued for who they are and who they can become.

At Churchdown School Academy the education we provide is guided by values of respect, ambition and tolerance. These values are particularly important to us as we develop the students into lifelong learners and prepare them for a life beyond school.

Focus for 2025-26

The focus for 2025-26 will be based on ensuring students achieve to the best of their ability across all subjects and year groups. We aim to ensure that all staff are nurtured and developed as part of their career progression and that our teaching and learning is outstanding in all areas of the school, for every student.

Strategies and Activities

The Academy has clear targets and strategies, which are included in the School Development Plan. Each individual department also has their own Improvement Plan which forms part of the overall School Development Plan.

Public Benefit

The Trustees have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission in defining the strategic direction of the Academy. The Trustees have referred to the Charities Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Academy's aims and objectives and in planning future activities for the year. The Academy continues to be at the heart of its community, promoting community cohesion and sharing facilities with other schools and the wider community.

Achievements and Performance

During the academic year of 2024-25 the school has operated well. There has been minimal disruption with students' absence (Churchdown attendance 94.8% vs National 93.7%). All the KS4 and KS5 summer exam series was managed well with all students achieving above national baseline figures. This shows how well Churchdown has managed the advanced information and careful strategy around exam readiness.

Educational Performance

Our results for all students are the best we have ever had and prove that teaching is significantly improving in school. Our Progress 8 has increased consistently and sustainably over the last 6+ years. The Progress 8 score in 2023-24 increased even further and ranked us in the top 1% of schools nationally with a score of +0.9. The KS5 results also indicate significant growth with the average grade achieved within A Level subjects increasing from a C+ to B-. In the absence of KS2 for the current year 11 cohort we are unable to identify the Progress 8 score but, using CAT data we are able to report we have continued to achieve significantly above national progress for all students (FFT).

We have worked hard to drive up standards and make the school a better place to study and learn. The results show that we have committed young people who have made a huge contribution to the development of our school and wider community. The results over previous years have shown continued growth with regards to student outcomes as has our reputation as we are significantly over subscribed in all years. The school is tremendously proud of all students and looks forward to even greater developments.

OFSTED Inspection

On 25th November 2021 the school received a routine Ofsted Inspection. The school was again judged to be good and there was recognition of the significant and rapid improvements over the previous years.

Key findings

- Pupils are happy at school. They feel proud to attend and enjoy their time here. Some pupils say that they 'love' the school. Pupils from all year groups feel safe and secure. Pupils know that staff care about them. They believe that all staff treat everyone fairly. Pupils can talk easily to staff, including the headteacher and senior leaders.
- Pupils describe lessons as being interesting and fun. They work hard to match their teachers' high expectations. Pupils receive helpful feedback. This enables them to improve their work and learn more.
- The school provides extra classes after school for English, Mathematics, and Science. Pupils appreciate how these are helping them to deepen their learning after a year in which they have missed much school.
- Pupils behave well in lessons and at social times. Pupils are kind and friendly to each other. Bullying is rare. If bullying does occur, staff manage it quickly and effectively. Pupils feel that their voices are heard and that they have a say in the direction of the school.
- The school is well led. Leaders pay great care and attention to managing the workload of staff. As a result, there is a strong sense of purpose and morale within the staff group. Leaders are high profile around the school. Staff and pupils feel that leaders are approachable and supportive. Leaders ensure that the school is a welcoming place for all pupils. Few pupils leave during the course of a year.
- Leaders give much attention to the development of the curriculum. It is particularly strong in some subjects. For example, in English, it has been subject to considerable thought and collaboration. Curriculum plans are well-structured and sequenced in a logical order. The quality and consistency of the English curriculum ensures that pupils achieve highly. The school's policies ensure teachers implement the curriculum well. Teachers' use of assessment to check pupils' learning is effective. Teachers' approaches help pupils to remember what they have learned. However, there is some slight variation across departments in the consistency of the use of these approaches. For example, in teachers' use of language. Leaders are aware of this and they are working to improve it.
- Sixth-form leaders are ambitious for students. Sixth-form students study a wide range of subjects, which they enjoy and appreciate. Students are well prepared for their next steps. The number of them accessing higher education continues to increase.
- Leaders have ensured the curriculum goes beyond the academic to deepen pupils' wider development. This is evident in personal, social and health education, tutor time, social skills lessons and assemblies.

Going Concern

The Board of Trustees has a more than reasonable expectation that the academy has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found below and in the Accounting Policies note of the financial statements.

The Trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate and 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 at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

**CHURCHDOWN SCHOOL
TRUSTEES' REPORT INCLUDING STRATEGIC REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

Financial Review

This financial data covers the 12 month period up to the end of academic year 31 August 2025 with comparative amounts for the 12 month period to the end of the academic year 31 August 2024.

The academy converted in November 2011 with assets and liabilities in total of £19,896,874 including £263,000 unrestricted funds, £21,448,874 fixed assets less £1,815,000 pension deficit.

This financial year the academy received £11,271,891 (2024: £10,764,924) of income from grants, donations and activities for generating funds and incurred costs of £11,442,028 (2024: £11,156,741) on educational operations, governance costs and pension charges, with an actuarial loss £211,000 (2024: gain of £185,000) on the pension fund, recognising an overall deficit of £381,137 (2024: deficit of £206,817).

At 31 August 2025 the academy carried forward £21,466,505 (2024: £21,874,642) including £491,591 (2024: £450,137) of unrestricted income funds, £382,435 (2024: £505,614) of restricted general funds, £20,592,479 (2024: £20,891,891) of fixed asset funds less £Nil (2024: £Nil) pension funds deficit.

Income

The majority of the academy's income is received from the Department for Education (DfE) in the form of monthly recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted for specific educational purposes. The DfE grants received during the year ended 31 August 2025 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

In addition, the academy generates income through the hiring out of facilities, the selling of uniform and PE kit and sale of in-house catering, which is included within unrestricted funds.

The restricted fixed assets fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets concerned.

Expenditure

The running costs of the academy have been as expected for the age of the buildings. The academy's support staff are entitled to membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme. At the year end the academy's share of the deficit has been assessed as £Nil (2024: £Nil). The academy will continue to monitor and update its three-year financial plan accordingly.

Reserves Policy

The policy of the academy is to carry forward a prudent level of reserves designed to meet the long-term cyclical needs of renewal and any unforeseen contingencies, subject to the constraint that the level of reserves does not exceed the level permitted by the DfE. In addition, that the resources are primarily used to meet the needs of the pupils within the academy and therefore any reserves are kept under review and are not deemed excessive. The academy is committed to spending its Revenue Grants on the pupils 'of the day' but is fully aware of the potential for unforeseen expenditure and, therefore, feel that a contingency holding of between 9% and 10% is prudent to ensure the academy can meet all of its obligations without risk.

The academy's current level of contingency is at a healthy level. Over recent years the academy has examined staffing levels and identified reductions to ensure that it stays within its budgeted staffing costs.

Investment Policy

Any surplus income is held with the academy's designated bank accounts with Virgin Money and accrues interest at the designated rate. The academy does not invest its funds elsewhere or enter into any schemes such as equity bonds. It does not have sufficient reserves to enter into any long term secured investments.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the academy is exposed, in particular those relating to the specific teaching, provision of facilities, its financial operations and other operational areas of the academy. The Trustees have implemented a number of systems to assess risks especially in the operational areas for example: in relation to teaching, health and safety and school trips. They have introduced systems, including operational procedures for example the vetting of new staff and visitors, supervision of school grounds and internal financial controls in order to minimise risk. The Trustees recognise their responsibilities to ensure the estate is safe, secure, well maintained and it complies with the relevant regulations. Where significant risks remain, they have ensured they have adequate DfE approved insurance cover.

The academy receives the majority of its funding from the DfE and as such relies on appropriate levels of funding to carry out all of its operations. However, the Trustees have identified the risk of sustainability due to the increase in overall staffing costs. Trustees also ensured that the other spending levels were kept to their current levels of expenditure to ensure that 'in year' they were able to prepare a balanced budget. This was monitored on a monthly basis throughout the year with accurate, concise and regular budget monitoring reporting from the Business Manager. This approach will be maintained for 2025/26.

Financial and Risk Management Objectives and Policies

The academy continues to undertake work to further develop systems of internal control, including financial, operational and risk management designed to protect its assets and reputation. The Finance and Resources sub-committee of the Board of Trustees has a remit to identify and manage risk and has an academy's risk register which identifies the risks to which the academy is exposed. This identifies systems and procedures, including specific preventable actions which should mitigate any potential impact on the academy.

The main responsibility for identifying corporate risks lies with the Senior Leadership Team and the Board of Trustees. These Trustees will consider both existing risks and consider any new potential risks. Senior Leadership Team input is important as members are well placed to identify and monitor corporate risks.

Individual managers may also identify risks to their department's aims. Mitigating actions should be identified if the risk is considered serious enough. If the risks are considered corporate, again the manager should advise relevant Senior Leadership Team members. All staff have a role in identifying risks.

During 2024/25 the academy employed the Audit Risk Assurance Team from the Local Authority to act as the Responsible Officer. A designated and consistent officer completed four visits at quarterly intervals plus a year-end report. The reports were shared with the Business Manager, Head Teacher, Chair of Trustees, and Hazlewoods. The Responsible Officer's role includes providing the Board of Trustees with an on-going independent oversight of the academy's affairs. Assurances were sought from the Responsible Officer that the financial responsibilities are being properly discharged, resources are managed in an efficient, economical and effective manner, sound systems of internal financial control are being maintained, and financial considerations are fully taken into account in reaching decisions. This approach complies with the requirements within the Academy Trust Handbook 2024.

Plans for Future Periods

The resubmitted CIF bid for window and heating replacement was again unsuccessful. In addition to the much needed windows and heating replacement, the Science block will also need remedial work for its roof in the coming 3-5 years.

**CHURCHDOWN SCHOOL
TRUSTEES' REPORT INCLUDING STRATEGIC REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

Auditor

Hazlewoods LLP, having served as the first appointed auditor to the academy, participated in the recent audit tender process but was not reappointed. Their term will conclude following the completion of the current year's audit.

Disclosure of information to the Auditors

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.

Approved by order of the board of Trustees on 4/12/25 and signed on its behalf by :


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Mrs Gemina Davie
Chair of Trustees

**CHURCHDOWN SCHOOL
GOVERNANCE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

Scope of Responsibility

As Trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Churchdown School Academy 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 the Department for Education's (DfE) Governance Guide.

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Head Teacher, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between the academy and the Secretary of State for Education. He is also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The academy's organisational structure and framework for governance and management is detailed in the Trustees' Report on pages 3 to 9.

The financial governance of the academy is delegated to the Finance, Premises and Audit Committee

This is overseen by the Full Trust Board

Trustee attendance during the academic year is listed below:

Name	Category	Committees	Possible Attendance	Actual Attendance
Mr D Potter	Headteacher	All	11	10
Mr C Widden	Vice Chair	All	11	10
Mrs G Davie	Trustee, Chair	All	11	10
Ms P Church	Trustee	FTB	7	6
Ms J Harrison	Member	FTB	1	1
Mrs P Scott-Plummer	Chair and Member	All	11	8
Mr D Walsh	Trustee	All	11	8
Ms L Webley	Member	FTB	1	1
Mrs C Bailey	Trustee	All	11	9
Mr M Barton	Trustee	All	6	6
Mrs G Parry	Trustee	FTB	4	2

The Finance, Premises and Audit committee meets four times during the year.

The Full Trust Board received and discussed Individual Pupils' ISM Data and Targets for ISM1 and ISM2. They also discussed the academy's achievement strategy, the SSAT Accreditation achieved for Professional Practice, ratified the Admissions Policy for September 2024 and received and discussed the standing agenda items.

The Finance and Resources sub-committee met and discussed the Annual End of Year accounts, the Outturn Forecast for 2024/25, the Auditor's Report and various staffing issues. Premises reports were presented and discussed at regular intervals during the year. These reports covered works being undertaken and future planned works.

The Full Board of Trustees met regularly throughout the year to receive the sub-committees' and Head Teacher's reports. Throughout the year the Trustees performed in a thoroughly professional and effective manner. They also ensured that each sub-committee fully discussed the management of all operations of the school to ensure that there is robust governance and effective strategies and policies are in place to enable Trustees to discharge their responsibilities effectively.

Conflicts of Interest

Academy trusts must describe the processes they have in place to manage conflicts of interest, including for example, but not limited to maintaining an up-to-date and complete register of interests, and how the information on this register is used in the day-to-day management and governance of the academy trust. Where relevant, they must also explain how the academy trust avoids conflicts of interest in its ownership or control of any subsidiaries, joint ventures or associates.

Review of Value for Money

As Accounting Officer, the Headteacher has responsibility for ensuring that the academy delivers good value in the use of public resources. The Accounting Officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes, as well as estates safety and management, achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

The Accounting Officer considers how the Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the Board of Trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where available.

The Accounting Officer for the academy trust has delivered improved value for money during 2024/25. Some of the interventions introduced by the academy during the last year which considerably provided sound value for money included the:

- Review of teaching provision throughout the school.
- Further provision of revision sessions for students outside normal lessons; after school and at weekends for Year 11 students run by teachers who were not paid extra.

In addition, all Support Service costs are carried out 'in-house'; this provides the most cost effective way to deliver these services including Catering, Cleaning and Payroll. The Trustees have the responsibility keep the estate safe, secure and well maintained.

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's 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 academy continues to employ a third party, the Audit Risk and Assurance Team from the Local Authority, to complete its Responsible Officer role. The system of internal control has been in place in the academy 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 Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the academy is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is satisfied that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy's significant risks that has been in place for the year ending 31 August 2025 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

The Risk and Control Framework

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

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

The Responsible Officer role is now completed on a three monthly basis by the Audit and Risk Assurance Team (ARA) from the Local Authority. This has resulted in improved and clearer Trustee minutes, accurate reports shared with all parties and a written response from the Business Manager on all control issues on a three monthly basis. The ARA has stated its Substantial Assurance on a number of areas.

Review of Effectiveness

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

- the work of the Responsible Officer;
- the work of the external auditor;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process
- the work of the executive managers within the academy who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

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

Conclusion

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 4/12/25 and signed on its behalf by:



**Mrs Gemina Davie
Chair of Trustees**



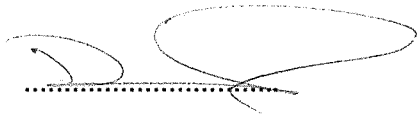
**Mr D Potter
Accounting Officer**

**CHURCHDOWN SCHOOL
STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

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

I confirm that I and the Academy Trust 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 funding non-compliance have been discovered to date. If any instances are identified after the date of this statement, these will be notified to the board of trustees and DfE.



Mr D Potter
Accounting Officer

04.12.25

.....
Date

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

The Trustees (who act of Governors of Churchdown School Academy and are also Directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report including the Strategic Report and the financial statements in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction published by the Department for Education, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charitable Company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the Charitable Company for the year. 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 (FRS102) and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation

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 Education and Skills Funding Agency and Department for Education have been applied for the purposes intended.

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 4/12/25 and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs Gemina Davie
Chair of Trustees

**CHURCHDOWN SCHOOL
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF CHURCHDOWN SCHOOL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Churchdown School Academy ('the academy trust') for the year ended 31 August 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland, the Charities SORP (FRS102) and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by the Department for Education.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the academy trust's affairs as at 31 August 2025, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP (FRS102) and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by the Department for Education.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the academy trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the 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 trust's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

Other information

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

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Trustees' Report (incorporating the Strategic Report and the Directors' Report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Strategic Report and the Directors' Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' 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 Trustees' responsibilities statement, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the academy trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the academy trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue 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:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks applicable to the academy trust financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of the academy trust. We determined that the most significant laws and regulations included UK GAAP, UK Companies Act 2006 and taxation laws;
- We assessed the susceptibility of the academy trust's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included challenging assumptions and judgments made by management in its significant accounting estimates and identifying and testing journal entries, in particular any journal entries posted with unusual characteristics.

**CHURCHDOWN SCHOOL
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF CHURCHDOWN SCHOOL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

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


As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the academy trust's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the academy trust to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

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

..... 

Scott Lawrence FCA DChA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

..... 5/12/25

Date

For and on behalf of Hazlewoods LLP, Statutory Auditor

**Staverton Court
Staverton
Cheltenham
GL51 0UX**

**CHURCHDOWN SCHOOL
INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE GOVERNING BODY
OF CHURCHDOWN SCHOOL AND THE DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 30 July 2025 and further to the requirements of the Department for Education (DfE) as included in the extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether anything has come to our attention that would suggest, in all material respects, the expenditure disbursed and income received by Churchdown School Academy during year to 31 August 2025 have not been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of Churchdown School Academy's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of Churchdown School Academy's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education and the Academy Trust Handbook for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Approach

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

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

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

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

In this regard, we have carried out the following:

- specific testing of a sample of items of income and expenditure to ensure appropriately applied for the purposes intended;
- specific testing of a sample of system controls relevant to the above items;
- a general review of relevant correspondence with the DfE regarding academy governance matters during the period since conversion; and
- a general review and discussion of the academy's internal processes for establishing and maintaining systems of control and documentation regarding these matters.

**CHURCHDOWN SCHOOL
INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE GOVERNING BODY
OF CHURCHDOWN SCHOOL AND THE DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

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 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.

.....Scott Lawrence.....

Scott Lawrence FCA DChA (Reporting Accountant)

.....5/12/25.....

Date

For and on behalf of Hazlewoods LLP, Statutory Auditor

**Staverton Court
Staverton
Cheltenham
GL51 0UX**

CHURCHDOWN SCHOOL
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (Including Income and Expenditure Account)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:						
Donations and capital grants	3	-	-	30,123	30,123	59,249
Other trading activities	5	145,200	-	-	145,200	136,899
Investment income	6	31,811	-	-	31,811	81,874
Charitable activities:						
Funding for the Academy's educational operations	4	716,860	10,347,897	-	11,064,757	10,486,902
TOTAL		893,871	10,347,897	30,123	11,271,891	10,764,924
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Charitable activities:						
Academy's educational Operations: normal	8	852,417	10,115,489	474,122	11,442,028	11,156,741
NET INCOME/ (EXPENDITURE)		41,454	232,408	(443,999)	(170,137)	(391,817)
Transfers between funds		-	(144,587)	144,587	-	-
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	17,26	-	(211,000)	-	(211,000)	185,000
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		41,454	(123,179)	(299,412)	(381,137)	(206,817)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
Total funds brought forward	17,18	450,137	505,614	20,891,891	21,847,642	22,054,459
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	17,18	491,591	382,435	20,592,479	21,466,505	21,847,642

All of the academy's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two financial periods.

No separate statement of total recognised gains and losses has been presented as all such gains and losses are dealt with in the statement of financial activities above.

**CHURCHDOWN SCHOOL
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025**

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	12	<u>20,592,479</u>	<u>20,891,891</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stock	13	18,816	27,310
Debtors	14	229,053	181,175
Cash at bank and in hand		840,061	1,031,137
		<u>1,087,930</u>	<u>1,239,622</u>
LIABILITIES			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>(213,904)</u>	<u>(283,871)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>874,026</u>	<u>955,751</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>21,466,505</u>	<u>21,847,642</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	26	-	-
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u><u>21,466,505</u></u>	<u><u>21,847,642</u></u>
FUNDS OF THE ACADEMY:			
Restricted funds			
Fixed asset fund	17	20,592,479	20,891,891
General funds	17	382,435	505,614
Pension reserve	17	-	-
Total restricted funds		<u>20,974,914</u>	<u>21,397,505</u>
Unrestricted income funds	17	<u>491,591</u>	<u>450,137</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u><u>21,466,505</u></u>	<u><u>21,847,642</u></u>

The financial statements on the following pages were approved by the Governors, and authorised for issue on... 2025 and are signed on their behalf by:



.....
Mrs Gemina Davie
Chair of Trustees

Company Limited by Guarantee
Registration Number 07773693

**CHURCHDOWN SCHOOL
CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Net cash provided by operating activities	21	(46,489)	(333,215)
Cash flows from investing activities	22	(144,587)	(343,594)
CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS IN THE REPORTING PERIOD		(191,076)	(676,809)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2024	23	1,031,137	1,707,946
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 31 AUGUST 2025	23	840,061	1,031,137

1 Statement of Accounting Policies

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

Basis of Preparation

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

Going Concern

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

Income

All incoming resources are recognised when the academy has entitlement to the funds, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

- **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.

- **Sponsorship income**

Sponsorship income provided to the academy which amounts to a donation is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which it is receivable, where there is certainty of receipt.

- **Donations**

Donations are recognised on a receivable basis where there is certainty of receipt and the amount can be reliably measured.

- **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.

- **Donated Services and Gifts in Kind**

The value of donated services and gifts in kind provided to the academy are recognised at an estimate of their gross value in the period in which they are receivable as incoming resources, where the benefit to the academy can be reliably measured. An equivalent amount is included as expenditure under the relevant heading in the Statement of Financial Activities, except where the gift in kind was a fixed asset in which case the amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with academy's policies. No such donated Services or Gifts in Kind were received this year.

1 Statement of Accounting Policies (continued)

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised in the period in which a liability is incurred and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

- **Expenditure on raising funds**

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

- **Charitable activities**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Tangible Fixed Assets

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

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the Balance Sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. 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'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 over its expected useful lives, as follows:

Freehold buildings	50 years straight line
Freehold land	Nil
Computer equipment	3 years straight line
Motor vehicles	4 years straight line

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

Leased Assets

In respect of leases that are operating leases, the annual rentals are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

Financial Instruments

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

Financial assets – trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at transaction price as all are payable on demand as detailed in note 13. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

1 Statement of Accounting Policies (continued)

Financial liabilities – trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at transaction price as all are payable within one year as detailed in note 14. 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.

Stock

Stock consists of purchased goods for resale. Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Items donated for resale or distribution, are not included in the financial statements until they are sold or distributed.

Taxation

The academy 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 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 are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme ('TPS') and the Local Government Pension Scheme ('LGPS'). These are defined benefit schemes, are contracted out of the State Earnings-Related Pension Scheme ('SERPS'), and the assets are held separately from those of the academy.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the academy in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quinquennial valuations using a prospective benefit method. As stated in Note 26, the TPS is a multi-employer scheme and the academy is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis. The TPS is therefore treated as a defined contribution scheme and the contributions recognised as they are paid each year.

The LGPS is a funded scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the academy in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and gains and losses on settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs. Past service costs are recognised immediately in the Statement of Financial Activities if the benefits have vested. If the benefits have not vested immediately, the costs are recognised over the period until vesting occurs. The expected return on assets and the interest cost are shown as a net finance amount of other finance costs or credits adjacent to interest. Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other gains and losses.

Fund Accounting

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

Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by the Department for Education 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 and Department for Education.

1 Statement of Accounting Policies (continued)

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 Governors do not consider that they have made any critical judgements apart from those involving estimation in the preparation of the financial statements.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 25, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability.

As per the actuary's schedule of results for the Local Government Pension Scheme, the total market value of assets exceeds the present value of the scheme liabilities. The actuary's schedule of results valued the pension scheme in an asset position at the year end, however as this asset is unlikely to be realised, it has been reduced to Nil by an asset ceiling adjustment. Significant judgement was used to restrict the surplus using an asset ceiling adjustment as the entity will not be able to recover this surplus in the future.

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

2 General Annual Grant (GAG)

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State the academy was subject to limits at 31 August 2025 on the amount of GAG that could be carried forward from one year to the next. An amount equal to 12% of GAG could be carried forward, of which up to 2% could be used for general recurrent purposes, with any balance being available for premises/capital purposes. The academy has not exceeded these limits during the year ended 31 August 2025 or the prior year ended 31 August 2024.

3 Donations and Capital Grants

	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Capital grants	30,123	30,123	59,249
	<u>30,123</u>	<u>30,123</u>	<u>59,249</u>

Capital grants and donations in 2024 were £59,249 which was entirely restricted funds.

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

4 Funding for Academy's Educational Operations

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
DfE/ESFA revenue grants:				
General Annual Grant (GAG) - see note 2	-	9,989,576	9,989,576	9,381,644
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	8,796	8,796	9,552
	-	9,998,372	9,998,372	9,391,196
Other government funding:				
Local Authority grants	-	349,525	349,525	291,524
Other income:				
Sale of school meals	370,279	-	370,279	351,303
Other catering income	85,992	-	85,992	86,486
Private fund income	260,589	-	260,589	366,393
	<u>716,860</u>	<u>10,347,897</u>	<u>11,064,757</u>	<u>10,486,902</u>

The funding for the academy's educational operations in 2025 was £11,064,757 (2024: £10,486,902) of which £716,860 (2024: £804,182) was unrestricted funds and 10,347,897 (2024: £9,847,720) was restricted funds.

5 Other Trading Activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income from hire of facilities and services	12,000	12,000	12,000
Tuition Fees	11,483	11,483	14,620
Other Income	121,717	121,717	110,279
	<u>145,200</u>	<u>145,200</u>	<u>136,899</u>

Income from other trading activities in 2024 was £136,899 which was entirely unrestricted funds.

6 INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Bank interest receivable	31,811	31,811	81,874
	<u>31,811</u>	<u>31,811</u>	<u>81,874</u>

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

7 Expenditure

	Non-Pay Expenditure			Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
	Staff Costs £	Premises £	Other Costs £		
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	7,726,727	474,122	959,505	9,160,354	8,629,495
- Allocated support costs	794,325	811,833	675,516	2,281,674	2,527,246
	<u>8,521,052</u>	<u>1,285,955</u>	<u>1,635,021</u>	<u>11,442,028</u>	<u>11,156,741</u>

The method used for the apportionment of support costs is disclosed in the accounting policies.

Net income/(expenditure) for the period includes:

	2025 £	2024 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets:		
- owned by the academy	474,122	459,941
Fees payable to auditor		
- Audit	12,381	14,150
Operating leases	35,255	24,534

8 Charitable Activities - Academy's Educational Operations

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Direct costs				
Teaching & education support staff	-	7,726,727	7,726,727	7,020,696
Depreciation	-	474,122	474,122	459,941
Educational supplies	-	318,817	318,817	369,419
Examination fees	-	179,807	179,807	170,971
Staff development	-	28,896	28,896	32,866
Educational consultancy	-	35,611	35,611	76,286
Other direct costs (inc £17,922 Salaries)	-	147,915	147,915	109,321
Private funds expenditure	248,459	-	248,459	389,995
	<u>248,459</u>	<u>8,911,895</u>	<u>9,160,354</u>	<u>8,629,495</u>
Allocation supported costs				
Support staff costs	-	794,325	794,325	813,108
Technology costs	-	23,394	23,394	6,752
Premises & equipment maintenance	-	201,632	201,632	234,134
Cleaning (inc £315,116 Salaries)	-	359,931	359,931	283,340
Rent & rates	-	-	-	12,800
Energy costs	-	207,616	207,616	495,788
Insurance	-	42,654	42,654	37,177
Security and transport	-	49,514	49,514	40,531
Catering (inc £291,616 Salaries)	603,958	-	603,958	522,240
Pension scheme: FRS 102 adjustments (See note 26)	-	(211,000)	(211,000)	(151,000)
Legal costs	-	5,647	5,647	14,057
Other support costs	-	191,622	191,622	204,169
Governance costs	-	12,381	12,381	14,150
	<u>603,958</u>	<u>1,677,716</u>	<u>2,281,674</u>	<u>2,527,246</u>
	<u>852,417</u>	<u>10,589,611</u>	<u>11,442,028</u>	<u>11,156,741</u>

Included in other direct costs is £17,922 of salary costs (2024: £15,736), included in cleaning is £315,116 of salary costs (2024: £243,634), included in catering is £291,616 of salary costs (2024: £249,033)

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

9 Staff Costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
Staff costs during the period were:		
Wages and salaries	6,577,485	6,113,572
Social security costs	748,925	623,072
Pension costs – defined contribution and defined benefit	1,743,442	1,577,018
Other pension costs – defined benefit	(211,000)	(165,000)
Pension finance costs – defined benefit	-	14,000
	<u>8,858,852</u>	<u>8,162,662</u>
Supply teacher costs	57,932	12,809
Apprenticeship levy	17,922	15,736
	<u>8,934,706</u>	<u>8,191,234</u>

Staff severance payments

	2025	2024
	£	£
Severance payments	-	16,973
	<u>-</u>	<u>16,973</u>

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

	2025	2024
	Number	Number
Charitable Activities		
Teachers	90	90
Administration and support	100	97
Management	10	10
	<u>200</u>	<u>197</u>

Higher paid staff

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

	2025	2024
	Number	Number
£60,001 - £70,000	8	9
£70,001 - £80,000	7	5
£80,001 - £90,000	2	2
£110,001 - £120,000	-	1
£130,001 - £140,000	1	-
	<u>18</u>	<u>17</u>

The above employees participated in the Teacher's Pension Scheme. During the year ended 31 August 2025, pension contributions for these staff amounted to £394,334 (2024: £234,653).

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £1,437,388 (2024: £1,343,355).

10 Trustees' Remuneration and Expenses

The Headteacher and other Staff Trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of Headteacher and staff and not in respect of their services as trustees. Other Trustees did not receive any payments from the academy in respect of their role as directors. The value of Staff Trustees' remuneration including employer pension contributions was as follows:

D Potter (Headteacher and trustee):

- Remuneration £130,000 - £135,000 (2024: £115,001 - £120,000)
- Employer's pension contributions paid £30,001 - £35,000 (2024: £30,001 - £35,000)

P Church (Staff trustee)

- Remuneration £55,001 - £60,001 (2024: £55,001 - £60,000)
- Employer's pension contributions paid £15,001 - £20,000 (2024: £10,001 - £15,000)

During the year ended 31 August 2025, £nil (2024: £Nil) travel and subsistence expenses were reimbursed to Trustees.

11 Trustees' and Officers' Insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice the academy has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and Officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The insurance provides up to £10,000,000 cover on any one claim. The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost and relates to a multiple-line policy provided by the DfE.

CHURCHDOWN SCHOOL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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12 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold Land and Buildings £	Furniture and Equipment £	Computer equipment £	Motor Vehicles £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 September 2024	24,639,815	295,261	575,234	4,870	25,515,180
Additions	49,664	23,586	101,460	-	174,710
Disposals	-	(3,572)	-	-	(3,572)
At 31 August 2025	<u>24,689,479</u>	<u>315,275</u>	<u>676,694</u>	<u>4,870</u>	<u>25,686,318</u>
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2024	3,928,558	198,478	491,383	4,870	4,623,289
Charged in year	355,538	42,866	75,718	-	474,122
Eliminated on disposal	-	(3,572)	-	-	(3,572)
At 31 August 2025	<u>4,284,096</u>	<u>237,772</u>	<u>567,101</u>	<u>4,870</u>	<u>5,093,839</u>
Net book values					
At 31 August 2025	<u>20,405,383</u>	<u>77,503</u>	<u>109,593</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,592,479</u>
At 31 August 2024	<u>20,711,257</u>	<u>96,783</u>	<u>83,851</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,891,891</u>

The cost of freehold land and buildings transferred of £21,448,874 on conversion is the Trustees' best estimate of the market value of land and buildings acquired by the School from the LEA. The cost includes an estimate for the value of the various school buildings and attributable land including playing fields based on a valuation on an existing use basis carried out by Oliver Saunders (MRICS) of Drivers Jonas Deloitte on 31 August 2012, together with an estimate for the value of land considered by the Trustees to be surplus to the requirements of the School based on previous offers made by third parties for that land. The cost of £21,448,874 includes £7,716,939 of land which is not depreciated.

13 Stock

	2025 £	2024 £
Uniform	<u>18,816</u>	<u>27,310</u>

14 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Other debtors	28,137	-
VAT recoverable	52,531	76,410
Prepayments and accrued income	148,385	104,765
	<u>229,053</u>	<u>181,175</u>

CHURCHDOWN SCHOOL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	23,568	89,380
Taxation and social security	43,930	41,449
Accruals and deferred income (see note 16)	146,406	153,042
	<u>213,904</u>	<u>283,871</u>

16 Deferred income

	2025 £	2024 £
Deferred Income at 1 September 2024	115,723	280,017
Resources deferred in the year	128,800	115,723
Amounts released from previous years	(115,723)	(280,017)
Deferred Income at 31 August 2025	<u>128,800</u>	<u>115,723</u>

At the balance sheet date the academy was holding funds received in advance for Capital Maintenance of £nil (2024 - £nil), Pupil Premium of £69,231 (2024 - £62,263), Rates relief funding of £nil (2024: £nil) and £59,569 (2024 - £53,460) of Private fund income for future trips.

17 Funds

	Balance at 31 August 2024 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains, Losses and Transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2025 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant	505,614	9,989,576	(9,968,168)	(144,587)	382,435
Other DfE grants	-	8,796	(8,796)	-	-
Other Grant Funding	-	349,525	(349,525)	-	-
Pension reserve	-	-	211,000	(211,000)	-
	<u>505,614</u>	<u>10,347,897</u>	<u>(10,115,489)</u>	<u>(355,587)</u>	<u>382,435</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE/YPLA capital grants	-	30,123	-	(30,123)	-
Other donations	-	-	-	-	-
Tangible Assets	20,891,891	-	(474,122)	174,710	20,592,479
Total restricted funds	<u>21,397,505</u>	<u>30,123</u>	<u>(474,122)</u>	<u>144,587</u>	<u>20,592,479</u>
Unrestricted funds	<u>450,137</u>	<u>893,871</u>	<u>(852,417)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>491,591</u>
Total funds	<u>21,847,642</u>	<u>11,271,891</u>	<u>(11,442,028)</u>	<u>(211,000)</u>	<u>21,466,505</u>

**CHURCHDOWN SCHOOL
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

17 Funds (continued)

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

The Restricted General Funds includes GAG and other grants receivable from the DfE/ESFA towards the School's educational activities. School funds held in respect of education visits and events are also included in the Restricted General Fund.

The Restricted Fixed Asset Fund includes amounts receivable from the DfE/ESFA in respect of tangible fixed assets held for School use.

The Pension Reserve relates to the School's share of the deficit of the Local Government Pension Scheme overseen by the Local Authority.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the academy was subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2025. Note 2 discloses that this limit was not exceeded.

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

	Balance at 31 August 2023 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains, Losses and Transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant	1,102,053	9,381,644	(9,634,489)	(343,594)	505,614
Other DfE/EFA grants	-	9,552	(9,552)	-	-
Other Grant Funding	-	291,524	(291,524)	-	-
Pension reserve	(336,000)	-	151,000	185,000	-
	<u>766,053</u>	<u>9,682,720</u>	<u>(9,784,565)</u>	<u>(158,594)</u>	<u>505,614</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE/YPLA capital grants	-	59,249	-	(59,249)	-
Other donations	-	-	-	-	-
Tangible Assets	20,948,989	-	(459,941)	402,843	20,891,891
Total restricted funds	<u>21,715,042</u>	<u>9,741,969</u>	<u>(10,244,506)</u>	<u>185,000</u>	<u>21,397,505</u>
Unrestricted funds	<u>339,417</u>	<u>1,022,955</u>	<u>(912,235)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>450,137</u>
Total funds	<u><u>22,054,459</u></u>	<u><u>10,764,924</u></u>	<u><u>(11,156,741)</u></u>	<u><u>185,000</u></u>	<u><u>21,847,642</u></u>

CHURCHDOWN SCHOOL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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18 Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2025 are represented by:

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted General	Restricted Fixed Asset	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	20,592,479	20,592,479
Current assets	491,591	596,339	-	1,087,930
Current liabilities	-	(213,904)	-	(213,904)
Pension scheme liability	-	-	-	-
Total net assets	<u>491,591</u>	<u>382,435</u>	<u>20,592,479</u>	<u>21,466,505</u>

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

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted General	Restricted Fixed Asset	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	20,891,891	20,891,891
Current assets	450,137	789,485	-	1,239,622
Current liabilities	-	(283,871)	-	(283,871)
Pension scheme liability	-	-	-	-
Total net assets	<u>450,137</u>	<u>505,614</u>	<u>20,891,891</u>	<u>21,847,642</u>

19 Capital commitments

At 31 August 2025 the school had capital commitments as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Contracted for, but not provided in the financial statements	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

20 Financial commitments

At 31 August 2025 the academy had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other		
Expiring within one year	28,897	15,769
Expiring within two and five years inclusive	83,118	24,182
	<u>112,015</u>	<u>39,951</u>

CHURCHDOWN SCHOOL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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21 Reconciliation of net income to net cash inflow from operating activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Net expenditure for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(170,137)	(391,817)
Adjusted for:		
Depreciation (note 12)	474,122	459,941
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA (note 3)	(30,123)	(59,249)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable (note 26)	(211,000)	(165,000)
Defined benefits pension scheme finance expense (note 26)	-	14,000
Decrease/(increase) in stocks (note 13)	8,494	(5,269)
Increase in debtors (note 14)	(47,878)	(52,547)
(Decrease) in creditors (note 15)	(69,967)	(133,274)
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>(46,489)</u>	<u>(333,215)</u>

22 Cash flows from investing activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(174,710)	(402,843)
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA	30,123	59,249
Net cash outflow from investing activities	<u>(144,587)</u>	<u>(343,594)</u>

23 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	At 31	At 31
	August	August
	2025	2024
	£	£
Cash in hand and at bank	840,061	1,031,137
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>840,061</u>	<u>1,037,137</u>

24 Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1	Cash	At 31
	September	Flows	August
	2024	2025	2025
	£	£	£
Cash	1,031,137	(191,076)	840,061
	<u>1,031,137</u>	<u>(191,076)</u>	<u>840,061</u>

25 Members' Liability

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

26 Pension commitments

The academy's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff, and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff. Both are 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 £43,930 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2025 (2024: £41,449) 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' Pension Scheme 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 member and employer makes contributions, as a percentage of salary - these contributions are credited to the Exchequer. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament.

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2020. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 27 October 2023, with the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, applying a notional investment return based on 1.7% above the rate of CPI. The key elements of the valuation outcome are:

- Employer contribution rates set at 28.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy). This is an increase of 5% in employer contributions and the cost control result is such that no change in member benefits is needed.
- Total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £262,000 million and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222,200 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £39,800 million

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £1,316,994 (2024: £1,110,636).

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

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

26 Pension commitments (continued)

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 £558,000 (2024: £519,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £468,000 (2024: £436,000) and employees' contributions totalled £90,000 (2024: £83,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 33.8% for employers and between 5.5% and 9.9% 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.

The major assumptions used by the actuary were:

	At 31 August 2025	At 31 August 2024
Rate of increase in salaries	3.20%	3.15%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.70%	2.65%
Discount rate	6.05%	5.00%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.70%	2.65%
Inflation assumption (RPI)	<u>2.70%</u>	<u>2.65%</u>

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

	At 31 August 2025	At 31 August 2024
Retiring today -		
Males	20.9 years	20.6 years
Females	24.5 years	24.4 years
Retiring in 20 years -		
Males	22.1 years	21.9 years
Females	<u>25.9 years</u>	<u>25.9 years</u>

The academy trusts share of the net assets in the scheme were:

	Fair value at 31 August 2025	Fair value at 31 August 2024
	£	£
Equity instruments	5,148,800	4,529,920
Debt instruments	1,689,450	1,557,160
Property	1,045,850	920,140
Cash	160,900	70,780
Total market value of assets	<u>8,045,000</u>	<u>7,078,000</u>
Present value of scheme liabilities	(6,091,000)	(6,799,000)
Asset ceiling adjustments	<u>(1,954,000)</u>	<u>(279,000)</u>
Surplus/(deficit) in the scheme	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

The actuary's schedule of results valued the pension scheme in an asset position at the year end, however as this asset is unlikely to be realised, it has been reduced to Nil by the above asset ceiling adjustment.

CHURCHDOWN SCHOOL
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26 Pension commitments (continued)

Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Current service cost (net of employee contributions)	(193,000)	(165,000)
Net interest (gain)/cost	(18,000)	14,000
Total operating charge	<u>(211,000)</u>	<u>(151,000)</u>

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

	2025	2024
	£	£
At 1 September	6,799,000	6,314,000
Current service cost	279,000	273,000
Interest cost	345,000	333,000
Employee contributions	90,000	84,000
Actuarial (gain)/loss	(1,253,000)	(17,000)
Benefits paid	(169,000)	(188,000)
At 31 August	<u>6,091,000</u>	<u>6,799,000</u>

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

	2025	2024
	£	£
At 1 September	7,078,000	5,978,000
Expected return on assets	363,000	319,000
Actuarial (loss)/gain	211,000	447,000
Employer contributions	472,000	438,000
Employee contributions	90,000	84,000
Benefits paid	(169,000)	(188,000)
At 31 August	<u>8,045,000</u>	<u>7,078,000</u>

The estimated value of employer contributions for the year ended 31 August 2025 is £472,000.

27 Contingent liabilities

Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) Equalisation is a requirement to equalise the Guaranteed Minimum Pension benefits accrued between 1990 and 1997 from contracting out of the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme based on the principles outlined in the judgement of the "Lloyds Bank" High Court case in October 2018. The actuarial valuation prepared for the Local Government Pension Scheme (as disclosed in Note 25) does not currently include an adjustment for GMP Equalisation, as the fund actuary considers that a 'trigger event' is yet to occur in the LGPS. The trigger event referred to in this instance is that Government are yet to confirm the long term solution and hence the potential impact of GMP equalisation remains an unknown. In view of this continuing uncertainty, no provision has been made in these financial statements in relation to this matter.

28 Related Party Transactions

Owing to the nature of the academy's operations and the composition of the board of governors being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a member of the board of governors may have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook, including notifying the DfE of all transactions made on or after 1 April 2019 and obtaining their approval where required, and with the academy trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.