
FOREST WAY SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the period ended 31 May 2025

FOREST WAY SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

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Reference and Administrative Details

Members	N Palmer M Kirton M McQuade D Gerring
Trustees	J Shanley, Chair of Trustees G Seaton, Headteacher and Accounting Officer R Cafferty M Radley K Thomas (resigned 3 February 2025) A Harris D Richards M Blair-Park
Company registered number	07931627
Company name	Forest Way School
Principal and registered office	Warren Hills Road Coalville Leicestershire LE67 4UU
Senior management team	S Meek, Assistant Headteacher M Wilson, Primary Headteacher G Seaton, Headteacher S Wallace, Deputy Headteacher R Mortimer, Business Manager S Woodward, Assistant Headteacher L Larder, Assistant Headteacher B Tocker, Assistant Headteacher
Independent auditor	Bates Weston Audit Ltd Statutory Auditors Chartered Accountants The Mills Canal Street Derby DE1 2RJ
Bankers	Lloyds TSB Bank plc 20 Belvoir Road Coalville Leicestershire LE67 3QH

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Reference and Administrative Details (continued)
For the period ended 31 May 2025

Solicitors

Browne Jacobson LLP
Mowbray House
Castle Meadow Road
Nottingham
NG2 1BJ

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Trustees' Report
For the period ended 31 May 2025

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the period 1 September 2024 to 31 May 2025. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a directors' report under company law.

The trust operates a special academy in the Leicestershire area for pupils aged 3 to 19 with a range of needs including multiple and profound learning difficulties. It has a pupil capacity of 272 in the age range 3-19 pupils and an additional 12 places in a Communication and Interaction Unit as at 11th October 2021.

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

The Academy is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt Charity.

The Charitable Company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy.

The Trustees of Forest Way School are trustees for the purposes of charity law and are also the directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law.

The Charitable Company is known as Forest Way School.

The Company has adopted the February 2016 version of Articles of Association approved by the Department for Education and entered into a new Funding Agreement with the DfE.

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

b. Members' liability

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

c. Trustees' indemnities

In accordance with normal commercial practice the academy has purchased insurance to protect trustees from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring on academy business.

d. Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

The Trustees shall not be less than three but (unless otherwise determined by original resolution) shall not be subject to any maximum.

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

- a) up to 7 Trustees, appointed under Article 50; and
- b) a minimum of 2 Parent Trustees elected or appointed under Articles 53 56Bc

The Academy trust may also have any Co-opted Trustees appointed under Article 58.

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Trustees' Report (continued)
For the period ended 31 May 2025

Structure, governance and management (continued)

The term of office for any Trustee shall be 4 years. Subject to remaining eligible any Trustee may be reappointed or re elected. No time constraints apply to the Head Teacher.

At the first Full Governing Body (FGB) meeting each year the Trustees elect a chairperson, vice-chairperson and members of the Audit Committee. An External Review of Governance was carried out in June 2018 and a further review completed during January 2022.

e. Policies adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

The training and induction provided for new Trustees/Directors will depend on their existing experience. All Members, Trustees/Directors are supplied with access to the extensive range of on-line training through the National Governance Association (Gold Standard) and local training events provided through Leicestershire County Council's Governor Support and Development Service. An annual Skills Audit of Trustees identifies weaknesses in knowledge which can be addressed through targeted training and recruitment.

Where necessary induction will provide training on charity and educational, legal and financial matters. All new Trustees will be given a tour of the academy and the chance to meet with staff and pupils. All Trustees are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as a Trustee. Induction for new Trustees is tailored specifically to the individual.

The following Policies and Procedures have been adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees:-

- DfE Governance Handbook
- Trustee Code of Conduct and visits
- Trustee Allowances
- Trustee Development Service Training Programme
- Articles of Association
- Academy Funding Agreement
- Academies Handbook and Accounts Direction
- Register of Pecuniary Interests
- Safeguarding Policy and DBS information
- Keeping Children Safe in Education
- School Improvement Plan

f. Organisational structure

The leadership structure consists of Members, Trustees/Directors, the Headteacher and the Leadership Team. The Headteacher – Gail Seaton assumes the responsibility for the Forest Way Alliance (formerly Forest Way Teaching School Alliance) which continues to provide support and services to members of the Alliance through:

- Initial Teacher Training for Primary and Secondary Education
- Continuing Professional Development
- School to School Support

The Headteacher and Trustees are responsible for the strategic direction of the academy and ensuring the financial stability and sustainability of the Trust.

The Leadership Team consists of the Headteacher, two Heads of School, four Assistant Headteachers, four Teachers with additional Teaching and Learning responsibilities, two Teachers with a temporary Teaching and Learning Responsibility and the Business Manager. These members of staff are responsible for both the day to day operations within the academy and for implementing the strategic priorities as outlined in the School Improvement Plan.

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Trustees' Report (continued)
For the period ended 31 May 2025

Structure, governance and management (continued)

The structure ensures that major risks are continuously reviewed and systems and procedures are established to manage those risks through a comprehensive Risk Register which is reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee and the Governing Body on a regular basis throughout the financial year. The Risk Register drives a comprehensive programme of Internal Scrutiny that is completed by an external firm of Accountants. Accapita LLP were appointed to conduct our Internal Scrutiny programme of work on behalf of the Trust in 2024-25 following the requirements of the Academy Financial Handbook 2024. Any findings from the Internal Audit visits are reported and looked into by the Audit & Risk Committee and the findings reported on to the Governing Body for consideration.

The Members meet 3 times a year (once per term). The Trustees meet 6 times a year – and the monthly finance report is shared electronically with the Trustees and signed by the Chair. The Audit and Risk Committee meet 3 times a year. The Health and Safety Committee meet 3 times a year.

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

- Adopt a Pay Policy to provide a clear framework for the management of pay and grading issues for all staff employed in the school.
- Take decisions in accordance with key principles of public life (Nolan), including objectivity, openness and accountability.
- Ensure fair and transparent policy to determine the pay and grading for all staff employed in the school, which takes account of the conditions of service under which staff are employed.
- Comply with relevant legislation including the Equality Act 2010, the Employment Relations Act 1999, the Part time Workers (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations 2000, the Fixed Term Employees (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations 2002 and will ensure that all pay related decisions are taken equitably and fairly in compliance with statutory requirements.
- Adopt a whole school approach to pay issues. Pay decisions will take account of the resources available to the school. The school staffing structure will support the school improvement plan. The Governing Body will exercise its discretionary powers using fair, transparent and objective criteria in order to secure a consistent approach in school pay decisions.
- Ensure that all pay progression decisions for all teaching staff are linked to annual appraisal of performance and to ensure that this is achieved in a fair equitable and transparent way following consultation with staff and recognised trade unions.
- Ensure that every teacher's salary (including the salary of the Headteacher) is reviewed on an annual basis with effect from 1 September. The review will be completed no later than 31 October each academic year.

h. Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the period	2
Full-time equivalent employee number	2

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Trustees' Report (continued)
For the period ended 31 May 2025

Structure, governance and management (continued)

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	2
1%-50%	-
51%-99%	-
100%	-

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time	£
Total cost of facility time	-
Total pay bill	4,888,368
Percentage of total pay bill spent on facility time	- %

Paid trade union activities

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

a. Objects and aims

The principal object and activity of the academy is to provide the highest level of education for pupils with special educational needs between the ages of 3 and 19. Our school motto is "Thrive at Forest Way where young people are at the heart of everything"

We want our students to:

- Be as independent as they can be in readiness for life beyond Forest Way School
- Achieve their full potential
- Have the highest level of communication possible
- Be safe and happy

Our highly committed, professional staff will work together to:

- Provide an exciting, engaging and ever evolving curriculum that meets the individual and holistic needs of all of our young people
- Be outward facing. Learn from and support colleagues in school
- Nurture and support
- Work collaboratively with families and other professionals
- Be reflective and always strive for further improvement
- Praise and reward
- Recognise abilities not disabilities
- Create welcoming and respectful environment

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Trustees' Report (continued)
For the period ended 31 May 2025

Objectives and activities (continued)

b. Objectives, strategies and activities

The academy strives to complete its objectives by providing education for pupils appropriate to their needs, in a learning environment utilising the best possible teaching facilities and staff.

The activities provided include:

- Access to a broad and balanced curriculum for all pupils.
- A programme of enrichment including cultural, sporting and leisure activities for all pupils.
- Training opportunities for all staff.
- To prepare students for life after school including work experience opportunities and smooth transition for Post 19.

The Academy has a continuous cycle of school improvement and self-evaluation. This involves setting the School Improvement Plan at the beginning of the year, which generates objectives and actions. These objectives are evaluated the end of the year and this information then feeds into next year's School Improvement Plan. The key priorities that are identified annually also thread through the individual curriculum leader action plans and staff performance management targets.

The Self Evaluation Form is updated termly and the individual School Improvement Plan actions are evaluated termly.

The objectives of the academy during the year ended 31 May 2025 as recorded in the School Improvement Plan are summarised below:

- To ensure that the holistic, well-being and personal development needs of pupils and staff are met
- To enhance and further refine the Quality of Education across the curriculum EYFS-P16, ensuring it is of the highest quality to maximise pupil outcomes
- To have an impact wider than Forest Way School, including with parents/carers, professionals and the local community, Forest Way Alliance.

c. Public benefit

The trustees have regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011. The trustees ensure that the academy's activities are undertaken in line with the charitable aims and objectives.

d. Disabled persons

As a significant proportion of our pupils have a physical disability the whole site has been designed carefully to meet their needs.

e. Equality policy

The trustees recognise that equality should be an integral part of good practice within the workplace. The academy aims to establish equality in all areas of its activities including creating a working environment in which the contribution and needs of all people are fully valued.

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Trustees' Report (continued)
For the period ended 31 May 2025

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

a. Achievements and performance

Analysis of quality of teaching shows exceptional progress as evidenced by our last Ofsted inspection. The last inspection in December 2021 confirmed that Forest Way School continues to be an outstanding school with no areas identified for improvement. Monitoring and Evaluation is completed termly as part of a continuous cycle has been carried out across school during the year 2024-2025 and this has included using an external School Improvement Partner. The evidence from all of these activities support that the school continues to be 'outstanding' in all areas.

The Quality of Education is currently rated as Outstanding.
Performance indicators that we use to verify this are as follows:

- Internal M&E
- Learning Walks
- Book Scrutiny
- Lesson Observations carried out by SLT
- Teacher progress meetings reports
- Pupil Annual reviews
- Data drop

Quality Assurance:

- SLT carried out the monitoring using agreed criteria, with paired work, all have experience of latest Ofsted.
- HT/DHT quality assures and produced summaries for all staff.
- HT has overview and agrees actions following M&E.

School Improvement Plan

Evaluation of 3 Objectives shows that they are on track to be met by the end of the academic year 2025.

Interim Performance Indicators:

Evidence of action towards targets, impact to be measured at the end of the cycle.

- Significant achievements - Residential at Lea Green completed successfully for complex students who had not spent a night away previously
- New science assessment implemented
- Therapies extended to reach at least 100 pupils
- Refinement of NSSL curriculum pathway including development of resources
- Refinement of SPD provision for pupils
- Implementation of Communication small steps tracker
- Continued refinement of the implementation of learner Passports which supports in setting next steps for students
- Development and implementation of new Engagement Framework
- Pilot mainstream pathway implemented for 4 pupils at local primary school, progress rapid and plan for them to transition to mainstream for new academic year.

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Trustees' Report (continued)
For the period ended 31 May 2025

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

Quality Assurance:

- SLT M&E of actions towards objectives.
- All actions rag rated no 'red'.
- Trustee monitoring visits.
- School Improvement Partner Karen Lewis met with Gail, HT oversight of actions completed.
- Curriculum Leads responsibility for Action Plans & Evaluation, linked to Curriculum Team led by SLT.

b. Going concern

On 1 June 2025 the Academy joined the Open Thinking Partnership which is a Multi-Academy Trust. The process proceeded as planned with no unforeseen circumstances arising. Forest Way School ceased to be a going concern on the completion date when its operations, assets and liabilities were transferred.

Financial review

Forest Way School's income in respect of place funding is obtained from the Department for Education through the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as defined in the formal Funding Agreement agreed with the Secretary of State on conversion. Pupils' Top Up funding and additional in year place funding where applicable is provided by the appropriate Local Authority responsible for the pupil on a daily basis. The funding is forwarded monthly/termly in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. Funding allocations for Special Schools are not part of the National Funding Formula. The school has shown an in year surplus. This was down to prudent management of the school's finances and ensuring throughout that the funding is utilised to make the most impact for our pupils.

The Academy Trust prepares comprehensive monthly management reports including an income and expenditure account, variation to budget report, cash flows and balance sheet which attributes to strong financial control. A thorough review of actual income and expenditure incurred is conducted against forecast projections. The management reports include a monthly variance report on both overspends and underspends together with information on the impact of these variances on the end of year and 3 and 5 year financial position. These reports are the basis for ongoing strategic discussions with the Headteacher as Accounting Officer and the Governing Board. All material budget variations are investigated and reported to the Trustees/Directors through the Governing Body meetings. Forest Way continues to work closely with the Local Authority to provide much needed places for pupils currently without a provision. Over the years we have successfully built the Lodge, Den and the Nest which have increased our pupil capacity. We are currently at full capacity without applying for a significant change.

a. Reserves policy

The Academy is required to consider what level of reserves is appropriate to hold in order to demonstrate strong financial management, stewardship and sustainability. The Board of Trustees wish to do this to provide assurance to all Academy stakeholders that the Academy is managed in a prudent manner for the best interests of its beneficiaries. The Board of Trustees also want to provide confidence that there is a strong justification for the reserves held by the Academy, and that they wish to be open and transparent on all aspects concerning the Academy's reserves policy. In doing this the Academy has considered the following areas:

The key financial risks that are mitigated by the holding of reserves include variability of income, expenditure and the risks identified on the Risk Register as having significant financial impact. The Academy's intention is to maintain a level of reserve which will cover any unforeseen expenditure relating to the school structure. The

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Trustees' Report (continued)
For the period ended 31 May 2025

Academy continues to use its surplus balances by investing in the infrastructure of the school site. At the end of 2024/2025 restricted reserves of £1,048,347 and unrestricted of £637,042 were held by the Academy. Special Academies Reserves are critical in ensuring the sustainability of the trust and meeting future inflationary cost pressures. The use of Reserves meets the objectives of the Trustees/Directors to maintain and improve the fabric and capacity of the current school building(s) and the future development/expansion of the Trust.

Within the reserves for 2024-25 we have planned to use funds to the sum of £55,404 for three projects. £21,000 has been earmarked to further improve out IT provision by updating our classroom interactive white boards. We have also earmarked £12,000 to upgrade the EYFS/KS1 and KS2 playground spaces after the success of our south playground renovation last year. We identified the positive impact the spinning equipment had on our young people and have proposed to add this piece of equipment into 5 playgrounds to help pupils with their regulation. Finally, we set aside £22,404 for electric gates to be installed at the entrance to the staff car park which will allow fob access for staff and improve the overall security of the site for both pupils, staff and visitors.

b. Investment policy

The Board of Trustees/Directors ensures that the Trust's funds/investments are properly managed in accordance with the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook and above all provide value for money and security for the Academy trust. The level of Reserves at present restricts the opportunity for investment although short notice accounts with higher interest rates are used where possible. There is also a desire from the Governing Board to make full use of funding to improve children's outcomes in year whilst maintaining an appropriate level of reserves.

c. Principal risks and uncertainties

The Trustees and Governors have responsibility to assess the major risks to which the Academy is exposed. The Principal risks facing Forest Way School are included in the Risk Register, the probability and impact are reviewed to give a combined risk factor. This document is reviewed at each Audit and Risk Committee meeting and discussed at Full Governing body meetings. An effective system of internal controls is in place to minimise these risks. Where significant financial risk remains, adequate insurance cover is in place. A systematic analysis of all other risks that could affect the Academy's ability to perform its strategic obligations is now underway and will feed into Business Continuity planning.

Trustees/Directors have identified categories that each risk fall into which include, Governance, Operational, Financial, Teaching and Learning and Reputational. Each identified risk has a control procedure in place, an overview of how the risk is monitored and an action which identifies what needs to be done to mitigate the risk.

The Academy Trust has undertaken a financial risk assessment based on potential key risks identified:

- Not operating within its budget and running a deficit
- Changes in funding/reduction in pupil numbers
- Inappropriate or insufficient financial controls and systems
- Fraudulent activity
- Financial commitments made without adequate authorisation
- Unbudgeted increase in teaching/or support staff costs

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Trustees' Report (continued)
For the period ended 31 May 2025

The key controls used by the Academy to reduce risk include:

- Detailed terms of reference for all committees
- Formal agendas for the Academy board and committees
- Formal agreement of Annual Budget
- Schemes of delegation and formal financial regulations
- Formal written policies
- Clear authorisation and approval levels
- Budget Monitoring and Cashflow forecasting

The Academy is responsive to national directive and policy changes. The Trust adheres to the fundamentals of good estate management as published in the DfE Good Estates Management guidance to ensure compliance and adoption of good practice.

Fundraising

The academy raises funds for the benefit of the pupils through events held throughout the year at the school for parents and children to attend. We have continued to receive generous donations from a wide range of private individuals, local companies, charities and other organisations.

Plans for future periods

Our ability to expand the school site structurally to increase pupil capacity has naturally been reached over time. However as part of the Open Thinking Partnership Forest Way will now be able to look at ways of developing the trust hub and spoke model to bring the strategic vision for growth within our locality to life. This will allow us to continue to support the Local Authority to meet the needs of pupils with SEN within our area.

Plans for the future are detailed within the current School Improvement Plan as follows:

- To ensure that the holistic, well being and personal development needs of pupils and staff are met.
- To enhance and further refine the Quality of Education across the curriculum from EYFS to P16, ensuring it is of the highest quality.
- To have impact wider than Forest Way School, including with parents/carers, professionals, the local community.

The provision of additional classroom space through the completion of modular classrooms at The Lodge, The Den (Communication and Interaction Unit) and The Nest has enabled us to increase the available spaces at Forest Way School, an outstanding and sought after school. The continued success of the school in improving children's outcomes increases the demand for places both locally and further afield.

Funds held as custodian on behalf of others

There are no funds held as Custodian Trustee on behalf of others.

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Trustees' Report (continued)
For the period ended 31 May 2025

Disclosure of information to auditor

So far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant information (as defined by Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006) of which the academy's auditors are unaware, and each Trustee/Director has taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a Trustee/Director in order to make them aware of any audit information and to establish that the academy's auditors are aware of that information.
- that Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on _____ and signed on its behalf by:


.....
J Shanley
Chair of Trustees

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Governance Statement

Scope of responsibility

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

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Headteacher, 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 Forest Way School and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' report and in the Statement of trustees' responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met 5 times during the period.

Attendance during the period at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
J Shanley, Chair of Trustees	5	5
G Seaton, Headteacher and Accounting Officer	5	5
R Cafferty	4	5
M Radley	4	5
K Thomas (resigned February 2025)	3	4
A Harris	1	5
D Richards	3	5
M Blair-Park	5	5

There has been one Trustee resignation during 2024-25. In line with the recommendations from our External Review of Governance undertaken by Mark Blois in June 2018 and 2021 the overall number of Trustee/Directors has now increased to the number considered appropriate to achieving effective governance. The current Board of Trustees/Directors also has the relevant skillset to meet the challenge of governance in a successful academy, particularly in areas involving Finance, Education, Health and Safety and HR. The analysis of Trustee skills conducted annually is ongoing with any necessary recruitment targeting perceived possible areas of weakness resulting from Trustee resignations and succession planning.

The Board of Trustees/Directors' role is informed by both financial and non-financial data provided by the members of the Senior Leadership team and trust officials. The Board of Trustees/Directors consider that the data supplied is accurate, sufficient and relevant for their decision-making purposes.

The Board of Trustees/Directors meet at least 6 times a year with and operates a circle of governance model. The 6th meeting this year took place in June after our transfer to the Open Thinking Partnership. As required by The Academy Trust Handbook an Audit Committee meets under its own terms of reference, termly three times a year. Staffing, Pay and the financial position of the Trust are considered in detail at each meeting of the full governing body in line with the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook. The Audit Committee is a sub-committee of the main board of Trustees. It is responsible for directing the Trusts programme of internal scrutiny, regularly monitoring actual expenditure and income against budgets, ensuring compliance with legislation overseeing internal controls and risk management.

A follow up to the External Review of Governance in 2018 was completed in January 2022. The report from Mark Blois Browne Jacobson LLP, a National Leader in Governance stated there has been an impressive and committed focus on implementing the recommendations of my report. Forest Way School is an academy trust

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Governance Statement (continued)

Governance (continued)

that takes the importance of effective governance very seriously. Overall, the arrangements for governance at Forest Way School both in terms of mechanics/structures and dynamics/behaviours are now very well developed and delivering a high standard of governance effectiveness.

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 achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

The Academy acknowledges the need for a continuous review of procedures and systems to ensure value for money is at the heart of everything we do to enhance the learning opportunities for our pupils.

The accounting officer considers how the Academy's use of its resources demonstrates good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the Board of Trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where appropriate.

Forest Way School is a special school providing education for pupils with a wide range of special needs from moderate, to severe and profound. The Board of Trustees/Directors considers that the best use of academy resources is to invest in staffing and ensuring that our children receive the best quality of teaching thereby maximising the outcomes for our children. Additional specialist services such as nursing, speech and language therapy, music therapy and aromatherapy have also been provided to further enhance the pupils' school experience and allow them to reach their full potential. The individual needs of pupils with specific needs including behavioural difficulties and complex medical health issues are supported by targeting extra staffing across the timetable and at key times of the day.

Forest Way School is a centre of excellence and is highly regarded locally and nationally. It has had 4 consecutive outstanding Ofsted reports with no matters requiring improvement being raised at the last inspection in December 2021. It was designated in the first cohort of 100 schools nationally as a Teaching School. It facilitates an alliance of schools, primary, secondary and special, providing a wide range of courses to share delivery and good practice. This has impacted on improvements across the whole alliance.

We ensure that we provide the appropriate financial provision to maintain the high standards of equipment/decoration/maintenance, so that our pupils continue to benefit from the positive educational environment that we have created. Demand for places at what is a sought-after education establishment has pushed our numbers on roll to unprecedented levels.

The acquisition of an adjoining residential property and successful integration into the curriculum has been hugely successful and has become a place where our more able students can enhance their learning in a real-life environment. Completion of building projects for The Lodge, The Nest and The Den has increased pupil capacity and created a bespoke provision for Communication and Interaction Unit. The Trustees continue to challenge all our service levels and contract costs, deploying excellent value maintenance schemes to minimise our risks and enabling more accurate budget planning. We will, however, always strive to achieve the appropriate balance between quality of workmanship that preserves/enhances the appearance of the school against competitive costs.

We have strong internal financial controls that permeate down from the Board of Trustees/Directors throughout all aspects of school life. Members of the Board of Trustees/Directors play an active part in their governance, leading the school strategically and providing challenging monitoring in all areas to ensure a positive impact on the quality of teaching and learning for the pupils and continuing to improve and produce outstanding outcomes for pupils.

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Governance Statement (continued)

Review of value for money (continued)

The Academy has completed a Good Estates Management (GEMS) self assessment and is working on an Estates Management strategy. An ongoing program of maintenance ensures that the school reduces its exposure to large repair costs. The school is actively promoting sustainability, encouraging staff to create more efficient habits such as reducing our energy consumption through good housekeeping, reducing our reliance on printing, and encouraging our pupils through the Student Council to focus on recycling. There is also a high focus on food wastage and how that waste can be used in future sustainability projects.

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Academy policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Forest Way School for the year 1 September 2024 to 31 May 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 of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy's significant risks that has been in place for the year 1 September 2024 to 31 May 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 including review and an ongoing assessment of the Risk Register.

The risk and control framework

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

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

In addition, the Trustees have considered the guidance for directors of public listed companies contained within the Turnbull Report. They believe that although it is not mandatory for the academy it should, as a publicly funded body, adopt these guidelines as best practice. Accordingly they have set policies on internal controls which cover the following:

- the type of risks the academy faces.
- the level of risks which they regard as acceptable.
- the likelihood of the risks materialising.
- the academy's ability to reduce the incidence and impact on the academy's operations of risks that do materialise.

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Governance Statement (continued)

The risk and control framework (continued)

- the costs of operating particular controls relative to the benefits obtained.
- clarified the responsibility of the leadership team to implement the Trustees' policies and to identify and evaluate risks for the Trustees' consideration.
- explained to employees that they have responsibility for internal control as part of their accountability for achieving objectives.
- embedded the control system in the academy's operations so that it becomes part of the culture of the academy.
- developed systems to respond quickly to evolving risks arising from factors within the academy and to changes in the external environment.
- including procedures for reporting failings immediately to appropriate levels of management and the Trustees together with details of corrective action to be taken.

The board of Trustees decided that Accapita LLP will be appointed to conduct a Programme of Internal Control checks during the period 1st September 2024 to 31st May 2025. The Audit Committee oversees the completion of the Internal Scrutiny Programme and reviews the reports raised. The checks undertaken include financial records relating to the Forest Way Alliance which are part of the Trust finances. Reports on any findings/recommendations or confirmation that no issues have arisen are submitted directly to Trustee/Directors who are members of the Audit Committee. Any issues arising are investigated and reported through to full governing body meetings. No significant issues have arisen from the Internal Scrutiny checks undertaken during the period, with appropriate action being taken on all minor issues/recommendations raised where applicable.

These arrangements can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions are authorised and properly recorded and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected within a timely period.

Review of effectiveness

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

- the financial management and governance self-assessment process;
- the results of the internal scrutiny reviews conducted by Accapita LLP;
- the work of the managers within the Academy who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework;
- the work of the external auditor;
- the completion of checks carried out as part of the regularity checks undertaken.

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

FOREST WAY SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)


Governance Statement (continued)


Review of effectiveness (continued)

Conclusion

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

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


.....
J Shanley
Chair of Trustees
Date:


.....
G Seaton
Accounting Officer

FOREST WAY SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance

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

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

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



.....
G Seaton (44613 2025 11:15:59 GMT+0)

G Seaton

Accounting Officer

Date:

FOREST WAY SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities
For the period ended 31 May 2025

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

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

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

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

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

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

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


.....
J Shanley
Chair of Trustees
Date:

FOREST WAY SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

Independent Auditor's Report on the financial statements to the Members of Forest Way School

Opinion

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

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 in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of matter

Financial statements prepared on a basis other than going concern

We draw attention to note 1.2 in the financial statements, which indicates that the Academy is expected to be wound up in the next 12 months and therefore do not consider it appropriate to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements. Accordingly the financial statements have been prepared on a basis other than going concern as described in note 1.2. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the 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.

FOREST WAY SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

Independent Auditor's Report on the financial statements to the Members of Forest Way School
(continued)

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of trustees' responsibilities, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the Academy for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

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:

FOREST WAY SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

Independent Auditor's Report on the financial statements to the Members of Forest Way School
(continued)

Based on our understanding of the charity and sector in which it operates, we considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006, Academy Trust Handbook, Academy Accounts Direction and ESFA/DfE funding agreements. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Enquiry of management around actual and potential litigation and claims;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for bias.

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

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

Use of our report

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

Wayne Thomas FCA (Senior statutory auditor)

for and on behalf of

Bates Weston Audit Ltd

Statutory Auditors

Chartered Accountants

The Mills

Canal Street

Derby

DE1 2RJ

Date:

FOREST WAY SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

**Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Forest Way School and the
Education and Skills Funding Agency**

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 7 March 2022 and further to the requirements of the Department for Education (DfE), as included in the extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Forest Way School during the period 1 September 2024 to 31 May 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 Forest Way School and the Secretary of State for Education in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Forest Way School and the Secretary of State for Education those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Forest Way School and the Secretary of State for Education, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Forest Way School's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Coketown Academy Trust'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 May 2025 have not been applied for the purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Approach

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountant of Academy Trusts issued by 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's income and expenditure.

The work undertaken to draw our conclusion includes:

- a review of activities undertaken by the academy to confirm that they conform with the academy trust's framework of authorities.
- a review of expenditure confirming items are authorised within the academy trust's delegated authorities and are within the academy trust's framework of authorities.
- an evaluation of the general control environment of the academy trust for the purposes of regularity.

FOREST WAY SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

**Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Forest Way School and the
Education & Skills Funding Agency (continued)**

In line with the Framework and guide for external auditors and reporting accountants of academy trusts issued April 2023, we have not performed any additional procedures regarding the Trust's compliance with safeguarding, health and safety and estates management.

Conclusion

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

Bates Weston Audit Ltd

Statutory Auditors
Chartered Accountants
The Mills
Canal Street
Derby
DE1 2RJ

Date:

FOREST WAY SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	3,559	45,563	13,682	62,804	104,723
Investments	5	10,802	70,000	-	80,802	79,337
Charitable activities		-	4,732,371	-	4,732,371	6,144,714
Other income	6	299,926	-	-	299,926	131,735
Total income		314,287	4,847,934	13,682	5,175,903	6,460,509
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	7	199,134	-	-	199,134	118,615
Charitable activities	8	37,155	4,562,451	206,596	4,806,202	5,885,049
Total expenditure		236,289	4,562,451	206,596	5,005,336	6,003,664
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)		77,998	285,483	(192,914)	170,567	456,845
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	23	-	1,820,000	-	1,820,000	506,000
Pension surplus not recognised	23	-	(1,997,000)	-	(1,997,000)	(694,000)
Net movement in funds		77,998	108,483	(192,914)	(6,433)	268,845

FOREST WAY SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement of financial activities (incorporating income and expenditure account) (continued)
For the period ended 31 May 2025

Note	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	559,044	939,864	10,177,111	11,676,019	11,407,174
Net movement in funds	77,998	108,483	(192,914)	(6,433)	268,845
Total funds carried forward	<u><u>637,042</u></u>	<u><u>1,048,347</u></u>	<u><u>9,984,197</u></u>	<u><u>11,669,586</u></u>	<u><u>11,676,019</u></u>

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

The notes on pages 30 to 52 form part of these financial statements.

FOREST WAY SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)
Registered number: 07931627

Balance Sheet
As at 31 May 2025


	Note	31 May 2025 £	31 August 2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	10,042,561	10,177,111
		<u>10,042,561</u>	<u>10,177,111</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	14	271,083	27,834
Investments	15	-	1,187,811
Cash at bank and in hand		2,438,422	1,320,040
		<u>2,709,505</u>	<u>2,535,685</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(1,082,480)	(1,036,777)
Net current assets		1,627,025	1,498,908
Total assets less current liabilities		11,669,586	11,676,019
Net assets excluding pension asset		11,669,586	11,676,019
Total net assets		11,669,586	11,676,019


FOREST WAY SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)
Registered number: 07931627

Balance Sheet (continued)
As at 31 May 2025

	Note	31 May 2025 £	31 August 2024 £
Funds of the Academy			
Restricted funds:			
Fixed asset funds	17	9,984,197	10,177,111
Restricted income funds	17	1,048,347	939,864
Total restricted funds	17	11,032,544	11,116,975
Unrestricted income funds	17	637,042	559,044
Total funds		11,669,586	11,676,019

The financial statements on pages 25 to 52 were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and are signed on their behalf, by:


[James Shanley \(Aug 12, 2025 19:14:04 GMT+1\)](#)
 J Shanley
 Chair of Trustees
 Date:


[Gail Seaton \(Aug 13, 2025 11:15:59 GMT+1\)](#)
 G Seaton
 Accounting Officer

The notes on pages 30 to 52 form part of these financial statements.

FOREST WAY SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement of Cash Flows
For the period ended 31 May 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	19	(7,695)	463,024
Cash flows from investing activities	20	(61,734)	14,873
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the period		(69,429)	477,897
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		2,507,851	2,029,954
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	21, 22	2,438,422	2,507,851

The notes on pages 30 to 52 form part of these financial statements

FOREST WAY SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the period ended 31 May 2025

1. Accounting policies

Forest Way School Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in England. The address of the registered office is given in the Reference and Administrative Details given in these financial statements. The nature of the academy trust's operations and principal activities are set out in the Trustee's Report.

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

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

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

1.2 Going concern

On 1 June 2025 the Academy joined the Open Thinking Partnership which is a Multi-Academy Trust. The process proceeded as planned with no unforeseen events or circumstances arising. Forest Way School ceased to be a going concern on the completion date when its operations, assets and liabilities were transferred. No adjustments to reported values arose from this process.

1.3 Income

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

• **Grants**

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

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

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

FOREST WAY SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the period ended 31 May 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.3 Income (continued)

- **Sponsorship income**

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

- **Donations**

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

- **Other income**

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

- **Donated goods, facilities and services**

Goods donated for resale are included at fair value, being the expected proceeds from sale less the expected costs of sale. If it is practical to assess the fair value at receipt, it is recognised in 'Stocks' and 'Income from Other Trading Activities'. Upon sale, the value of the stock is charged against 'Income from Other Trading Activities' and the proceeds are recognised as 'Income from Other Trading Activities'. Where it is impractical to fair value the items due to the volume of low value items they are not recognised in the financial statements until they are sold. This income is recognised within 'Income from Other Trading Activities'.

- **Donated fixed assets (excluding transfers on conversion or into the Academy)**

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

1.4 Expenditure

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

- **Expenditure on raising funds**

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

- **Charitable activities**

These are costs incurred on the Academy's educational operations, including support costs and costs

FOREST WAY SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the period ended 31 May 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.4 Expenditure (continued)

relating to the governance of the Academy apportioned to charitable activities.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.5 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 Part 11, chapter 3 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Assets costing £20,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

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

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Freehold buildings	-	2% on cost
Long-term leasehold property	-	2% on cost
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	-	10% on reducing balance
Computer equipment	-	33% on reducing balance
Motor vehicles	-	25% on reducing balance
Improvements to property	-	2% on cost

One of the school buildings has been leased to the academy trust on a 125 year lease at a peppercorn rent. It has been ascertained that the risks and rewards of the property lie substantially with the academy and a reasonable estimate of the gross value is included within fixed assets. Their valuation is at an estimation of depreciated replacement cost on the basis that the assets represent specialised property and an open market value for existing use is not readily available.

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

FOREST WAY SCHOOL
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the period ended 31 May 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.6 Tangible fixed assets (continued)

losses are recognised in the Statement of financial activities.

1.7 Liabilities

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

1.8 Financial instruments

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

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

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 16. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

1.9 Operating leases

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

1.10 Pensions

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

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

The LGPS is a funded multi-employer scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the Academy in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each Balance sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the

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1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.10 Pensions (continued)

current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the Statement of financial activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

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

1.11 Fund accounting

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

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

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

2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 23, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 May 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.

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3. Income from donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Capital grants	-	-	-	-	17,719
Other donations	3,559	45,563	13,682	62,804	87,004
	<u>3,559</u>	<u>45,563</u>	<u>13,682</u>	<u>62,804</u>	<u>104,723</u>
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u><u>13,615</u></u>	<u><u>73,389</u></u>	<u><u>17,719</u></u>	<u><u>104,723</u></u>	

4. Funding for the Academy's charitable activities

	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
DfE/ESFA grants			
General annual grant (GAG)	2,062,499	2,062,499	2,840,000
Other DfE/ESFA grants:			
Pupil Premium	87,072	87,072	119,472
Others	24,679	24,679	145,778
	<u>2,174,250</u>	<u>2,174,250</u>	<u>3,105,250</u>
Other Government grants			
Local authority grants	2,558,121	2,558,121	3,039,464
	<u>4,732,371</u>	<u>4,732,371</u>	<u>6,144,714</u>
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u><u>6,144,714</u></u>	<u><u>6,144,714</u></u>	

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the period ended 31 May 2025

5. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Investment income	10,802	-	10,802	16,337
Pension income	-	70,000	70,000	63,000
	<u>10,802</u>	<u>70,000</u>	<u>80,802</u>	<u>79,337</u>
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u>16,337</u>	<u>63,000</u>	<u>79,337</u>	

6. Other incoming resources

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Teaching School Alliance	299,926	299,926	131,735
	<u>299,926</u>	<u>299,926</u>	<u>131,735</u>
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u>131,735</u>	<u>131,735</u>	

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Notes to the Financial Statements
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7. Expenditure

	Staff Costs 2025 £	Premises 2025 £	Other 2025 £	Total 2025 £	<i>Total 2024 £</i>
Expenditure on raising funds					
Direct costs	-	-	937	937	199
Expenditure on fundraising trading activities:					
Teaching School Alliance costs	-	-	198,197	198,197	118,416
Academy's educational operations					
Direct costs	3,566,957	-	65,716	3,632,673	4,443,970
Allocated support costs	337,411	446,632	389,486	1,173,529	1,441,079
	<u>3,904,368</u>	<u>446,632</u>	<u>654,336</u>	<u>5,005,336</u>	<u>6,003,664</u>
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u><u>4,766,607</u></u>	<u><u>547,631</u></u>	<u><u>689,426</u></u>	<u><u>6,003,664</u></u>	

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2025 £	Support costs 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Educational operations	3,632,673	1,173,529	4,806,202	5,885,049
	<u>3,632,673</u>	<u>1,173,529</u>	<u>4,806,202</u>	<u>5,885,049</u>
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u><u>4,443,970</u></u>	<u><u>1,441,079</u></u>	<u><u>5,885,049</u></u>	

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Notes to the Financial Statements
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8. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Educational Operations 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Staff costs	337,411	337,411	471,244
Depreciation	205,800	205,800	278,709
Premises costs	446,632	446,632	537,131
Technology costs	32,422	32,422	68,352
Legal costs	25,492	25,492	24,051
Other support costs	115,272	115,272	51,092
Governance costs	10,500	10,500	10,500
	<u>1,173,529</u>	<u>1,173,529</u>	<u>1,441,079</u>
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u>1,441,079</u>	<u>1,441,079</u>	

9. Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) for the period includes:

	31 May 2025 £	<i>31 August 2024 £</i>
Operating lease rentals	65,805	55,420
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	205,800	278,709
Net interest on defined benefit pension asset	(70,000)	(63,000)
Fees paid to auditor for:		
- audit	8,000	8,000
- other services	3,300	3,000
	<u>8,300</u>	<u>8,000</u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements
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10. Staff

a. Staff costs and employee benefits

Staff costs during the period were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	2,996,629	3,762,833
Social security costs	288,598	322,425
Pension costs	619,141	744,349
	<u>3,904,368</u>	<u>4,829,607</u>

b. Staff numbers

The average number of persons employed by the Academy during the period was as follows:

	2025 No.	2024 No.
Teachers	27	27
Administration and support	121	127
Management	7	7
	<u>155</u>	<u>161</u>

c. Higher paid staff

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

	2025 No.	2024 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	1	1
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	-	1
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	1	-
In the band £110,001 - £120,000	-	1
In the band £120,001 - £130,000	1	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>

The disclosure of higher paid staff reflects the annual expected salary over the 12 month period to 31 August 2025 to provide comparability to the prior year. Staff included were still employed post period end.

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the period ended 31 May 2025

10. Staff (continued)

d. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy was £495,515 (2024 - £590,969).

11. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

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

	2025	<i>2024</i>
	£	£
G Seaton, Headteacher and Accounting Officer Remuneration	125,000 -	<i>115,000 -</i>
	130,000	<i>120,000</i>
Pension contributions paid	35,000 -	<i>30,000 -</i>
	40,000	<i>35,000</i>

The accounts cover a period of 9 months. For the purposes of disclosure, and given that the Trustee was still in position post year end, this reflects the annual gross salary and banding expected over a 12 month period.

During the period ended 31 May 2025, travel expenses totalling £NIL were reimbursed or paid directly to Trustees (2024 - £64).

12. 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 cover up to £3,000,000 on any one claim and the cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

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Notes to the Financial Statements
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13. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property £	Long-term leasehold property £	Improve- ments to property £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost						
At 1 September 2024	658,782	10,482,423	1,500,426	599,111	97,280	13,338,022
Additions	-	13,682	-	58,854	-	72,536
Disposals	-	-	-	(58,923)	(9,000)	(67,923)
At 31 May 2025	<u>658,782</u>	<u>10,496,105</u>	<u>1,500,426</u>	<u>599,042</u>	<u>88,280</u>	<u>13,342,635</u>
Depreciation						
At 1 September 2024	116,986	2,497,732	87,175	367,058	91,960	3,160,911
Charge for the period	7,707	149,914	22,509	24,719	951	205,800
On disposals	-	-	-	(57,885)	(8,752)	(66,637)
At 31 May 2025	<u>124,693</u>	<u>2,647,646</u>	<u>109,684</u>	<u>333,892</u>	<u>84,159</u>	<u>3,300,074</u>
Net book value						
At 31 May 2025	<u>534,089</u>	<u>7,848,459</u>	<u>1,390,742</u>	<u>265,150</u>	<u>4,121</u>	<u>10,042,561</u>
At 31 August 2024	<u>541,796</u>	<u>7,984,691</u>	<u>1,413,251</u>	<u>232,053</u>	<u>5,320</u>	<u>10,177,111</u>

14. Debtors

	31 May 2025 £	31 August 2024 £
Due within one year		
Other debtors	25,720	8,174
Prepayments and accrued income	245,363	19,660
	<u>271,083</u>	<u>27,834</u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the period ended 31 May 2025

15. Current asset investments

	31 May 2025	<i>31 August 2024</i>
	£	£
Short term deposits	-	1,187,811
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

16. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	31 May 2025	<i>31 August 2024</i>
	£	£
Trade creditors	-	4,043
Other taxation and social security	87,391	64,293
Other creditors	126,648	92,696
Accruals and deferred income	868,441	875,745
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	1,082,480	<i>1,036,777</i>
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

	31 May 2025	<i>31 August 2024</i>
	£	£
Deferred income at 1 September 2024	808,244	748,966
Resources deferred during the period	777,757	808,244
Amounts released from previous periods	(808,244)	(748,966)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	777,757	<i>808,244</i>
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Deferred income relates entirely to grant income received in advance.

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the period ended 31 May 2025

17. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 September 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 May 2025 £
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	559,044	314,287	(236,289)	-	637,042
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	939,864	2,062,499	(1,954,016)	-	1,048,347
Pupil Premium	-	87,072	(87,072)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	24,679	(24,679)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	45,563	(45,563)	-	-
Local authority grants	-	2,558,121	(2,558,121)	-	-
Pension reserve	-	70,000	107,000	(177,000)	-
	<u>939,864</u>	<u>4,847,934</u>	<u>(4,562,451)</u>	<u>(177,000)</u>	<u>1,048,347</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	7,980,236	-	(151,458)	-	7,828,778
DfE group capital grants	56,344	-	(5,803)	-	50,541
Capital expenditure from GAG	791,640	-	(26,994)	-	764,646
Other grants	1,348,891	-	(22,341)	-	1,326,550
Transfer from local authority	-	13,682	-	-	13,682
	<u>10,177,111</u>	<u>13,682</u>	<u>(206,596)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,984,197</u>
Total Restricted funds	<u>11,116,975</u>	<u>4,861,616</u>	<u>(4,769,047)</u>	<u>(177,000)</u>	<u>11,032,544</u>
Total funds	<u><u>11,676,019</u></u>	<u><u>5,175,903</u></u>	<u><u>(5,005,336)</u></u>	<u><u>(177,000)</u></u>	<u><u>11,669,586</u></u>

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

The designated fund relates to future investment in the infrastructure of the school site.

Restricted General Funds represent unspent General Annual Grant (GAG) which must be used for the normal recurring costs of the academy. The academy was not subject to a limit on GAG carry-forward in the academic year.

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the period ended 31 May 2025

17. Statement of funds (continued)

Restricted Fixed Asset Funds represent resources which have been applied to specific capital purposes imposed by the funder together with cash resources still to be expended. Transfers are made as permitted from restricted general funds to represent capital expenditure met from GAG income.

Restricted Pension Reserve Funds represent the academy's share of the assets and liabilities of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

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

	<i>Balance at 1 September 2023 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Transfers in/out £</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses) £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 August 2024 £</i>
Unrestricted funds						
General funds	537,637	161,687	(140,280)	-	-	559,044
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	432,900	2,840,000	(2,331,572)	(1,464)	-	939,864
Pupil Premium	-	119,472	(119,472)	-	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	145,777	(145,777)	-	-	-
Other government grants	-	3,039,465	(3,039,465)	-	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	73,389	(73,389)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	-	63,000	125,000	-	(188,000)	-
	<u>432,900</u>	<u>6,281,103</u>	<u>(5,584,675)</u>	<u>(1,464)</u>	<u>(188,000)</u>	<u>939,864</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Inherited on conversion	8,180,719	-	(200,483)	-	-	7,980,236
DfE group capital grants	48,065	17,719	(9,440)	-	-	56,344
Capital expenditure from GAG	828,681	-	(38,505)	1,464	-	791,640
Other grants	1,379,172	-	(30,281)	-	-	1,348,891

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17. Statement of funds (continued)

	<i>Balance at 1 September 2023</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Transfers in/out</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses)</i>	<i>Balance at 31 August 2024</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
	10,436,637	17,719	(278,709)	1,464	-	10,177,111
Total Restricted funds	10,869,537	6,298,822	(5,863,384)	-	(188,000)	11,116,975
Total funds	11,407,174	6,460,509	(6,003,664)	-	(188,000)	11,676,019

18. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current period

	Unrestricted funds 31 May 2025	Restricted funds 31 May 2025	Restricted fixed asset funds 31 May 2025	Total funds 31 May 2025
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	58,364	-	9,984,197	10,042,561
Current assets	621,999	2,087,506	-	2,709,505
Creditors due within one year	(43,321)	(1,039,159)	-	(1,082,480)
Total	637,042	1,048,347	9,984,197	11,669,586

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Notes to the Financial Statements
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18. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period

	<i>Unrestricted funds 31 August 2024 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 31 August 2024 £</i>	<i>Restricted fixed asset funds 31 August 2024 £</i>	<i>Total funds 31 August 2024 £</i>
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	10,177,111	10,177,111
Current assets	559,044	1,976,641	-	2,535,685
Creditors due within one year	-	(1,036,777)	-	(1,036,777)
Total	<u>559,044</u>	<u>939,864</u>	<u>10,177,111</u>	<u>11,676,019</u>

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

	31 May 2025 £	<i>31 August 2024 £</i>
Net income for the period (as per Statement of financial activities)	170,567	456,845
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	205,800	278,709
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	-	(17,719)
Interest receivable	(10,802)	(16,337)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	(107,000)	(125,000)
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	(70,000)	(63,000)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(243,249)	19,423
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	45,703	(69,897)
Loss on disposal of assets	1,286	-
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	<u>(7,695)</u>	<u>463,024</u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements
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20. Cash flows from investing activities

	31 May 2025	<i>31 August 2024</i>
	£	£
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	10,802	16,337
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(72,536)	(19,183)
Capital grants from DfE Group	-	17,719
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities	(61,734)	14,873

21. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	31 May 2025	<i>31 August 2024</i>
	£	£
Cash in hand and at bank	2,438,422	1,320,040
Short term deposits	-	1,187,811
Total cash and cash equivalents	2,438,422	2,507,851

22. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2023	Cash flows	At 31 August 2024
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	1,320,040	1,118,382	2,438,422
Liquid investments	1,187,811	(1,187,811)	-
	2,507,851	(69,429)	2,438,422

23. Pension commitments

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

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

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Notes to the Financial Statements
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23. Pension commitments (continued)

Contributions amounting to £105,471 were payable to the schemes at 31 May 2025 (2024 - £92,696) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

- employer contribution rates set at 28.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy). 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 was implemented on 1 April 2024. The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2027.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £327,777 (2024 - £353,923).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website (<https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2019/04/teachers-pensions-valuation-report.aspx>).

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102, the TPS is an unfunded multi-employer pension scheme. The Academy has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The Academy has set out above the information available on the scheme.

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23. Pension commitments (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the period ended 31 May 2025 was £498,000 (2024 - £655,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £393,000 (2024 - £519,000) and employees' contributions totalled £105,000 (2024 - £136,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 5.5 to 12.5 per cent for employers and 19.9 per cent for employees.

As described in note 1.10 the LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the Academy, who were the employees transferred as part of the conversion from the maintained school and new employees who were eligible to, and did, join the Scheme in the period. The obligation in respect of employees who transferred on conversion represents their cumulative service at both the predecessor school and the Academy at the balance sheet date.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of academy closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013.

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2025	2024
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.2	3.15
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.7	2.65
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.95	5.00
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.7	2.65

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

	2025	2024
	Years	Years
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	20.7	20.7
Females	24.2	24.2
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	21.3	21.3
Females	25.3	25.3

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23. Pension commitments (continued)

Sensitivity analysis

	2025	<i>2024</i>
	£000	<i>£000</i>
Discount rate -0.1%	158	<i>196</i>
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	248	<i>289</i>
CPI rate +0.1%	157	<i>194</i>
Salary +0.1%	6	<i>7</i>

Share of scheme assets

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

	At 31 May	<i>At 31 August</i>
	2025	<i>2024</i>
	£	<i>£</i>
Equities	5,023,500	<i>4,721,080</i>
Bonds	3,315,510	<i>3,086,860</i>
Property	703,290	<i>544,740</i>
Cash and other liquid assets	1,004,700	<i>726,320</i>
Total market value of assets	10,047,000	<i>9,079,000</i>

The actual return on scheme assets was £344,000 (2024 - £409,000).

The amounts recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities are as follows:

	31 May	<i>31 August</i>
	2025	<i>2024</i>
	£	<i>£</i>
Current service cost	(286,000)	<i>(394,000)</i>
Interest income	344,000	<i>409,000</i>
Interest cost	(274,000)	<i>(346,000)</i>
Total amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities	(216,000)	<i>(331,000)</i>

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23. Pension commitments (continued)

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

	31 May 2025	<i>31 August 2024</i>
	£	£
At 1 September	7,229,000	6,436,000
Interest cost	274,000	346,000
Employee contributions	105,000	136,000
Actuarial gains	(1,637,000)	-
Benefits Paid	(57,000)	(83,000)
Current service cost	286,000	394,000
At 31 May	6,200,000	7,229,000

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

	31 May 2025	<i>31 August 2024</i>
	£	£
At 1 September	7,229,000	6,436,000
Interest income	344,000	409,000
Actuarial gains	183,000	506,000
Employee contributions	105,000	136,000
Benefits paid	(57,000)	(83,000)
Employer contributions	393,000	519,000
Pension surplus not recognised	(1,997,000)	(694,000)
At 31 May	6,200,000	7,229,000

The Academy's share of scheme assets as disclosed in the actuarial report were £10,047,000 and contributed to a £3,847,000 net asset including the brought forward balance of £1,850,000. As a result, the actuary prepared asset ceiling calculations for a range of scenarios. The trustees opted to consider the minimum funding requirement for future service in the LGPS and that determined an asset ceiling adjustment of £1,997,000. The net asset has been restricted to £NIL with a corresponding entry on the SOFA.

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24. Long-term commitments, including operating leases

a. Operating leases

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

	31 May 2025	<i>31 August 2024</i>
	£	£
Amounts due within one year	46,237	69,570
Amounts due between one and five years	40,278	83,866
	86,515	153,436

25. Members' liability

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

26. Related party transactions

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

During the period, expenditure relating to the salary of M Wilson (Primary Headteacher) was paid to Dorothy Goodman School who is also a part of the Open Thinking Partnership, totalling £9,453 (2024: £NIL).

27. Post balance sheet events

On 1 June 2025 the Academy joined the Open Thinking Partnership Multi-Academy Trust. The Academy's assets and liabilities transferred to Opening Thinking Partnership and the dormant Academy will cease to exist within 12 months of the period end.

28. Agency arrangements

The academy distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for the DfE. During the accounting period ending 31 May 2025, the trust received £3,845 (2024 - £5,108) and disbursed £NIL (2024 - £NIL) from the fund.