Registered number: 07698631

Cumbria Education Trust

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual report

31 August 2025

Cumbria Education Trust

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Cumbria Education Trust

Reference and administrative details

Members	D Francis M Payne K Phillips N Polmear, Chair of Members (appointed 6 October 2024) M Simpson (resigned 20 January 2025)
Trustees	G Beveridge, Chair of Trust Board and Chair of CE Appraisal and Pay Review Sub Committee R Berry M Donnelly (resigned 17 March 2025) M Hood, Chair of School Improvement Committee L Hughes OBE, Chief Executive S Keaveney (appointed 9 April 2025) J O'Neill, (Co-opted) Chair of Audit and Risk Committee M Payne, Chair of Organisation Development Committee C Reeves, Co-opted (appointed 3 September 2024) Dr B Snaith (appointed 9 September 2024) Professor B Webster-Henderson (appointed 14 October 2024)
Company registered number	07698631
Company name	Cumbria Education Trust
Principal and registered office	Longtown Road Brampton Cumbria CA8 1AR
Company secretary	G Martin
Chief executive officer	L Hughes OBE

Senior management team

L Hughes OBE, Chief Executive
T Martell, Director of Strategy and Operations
S Newstead, Director of Learning Provision
C Kearton, Director of Data and Assessment
R O'Hagan, Professional Development Lead
D Bird, Director of Secondary Improvement
M Bedford, Headteacher at Workington Academy
B Griffin, Head of School at The Queen Katherine School
J Hayes, Executive Headteacher
K Pigdon, Headteacher at William Howard School
N Tweddie, Head of School at Kirkby Stephen Grammar School
N Youngman, Headteacher at The Whitehaven Academy
M Butler, Director of Primary Improvement and Professional Development
C Floyd, Deputy Director of Primary Improvement
G Brierley, Executive Headteacher
J Nicholson, Executive Headteacher
A Weston, Executive Headteacher
S Davies, CET Headteacher and School Improvement
M Beresford, Headteacher at Stramongate Primary School
A Brotherhood, Headteacher at Hensingham Primary School
A Carroll, Headteacher at Longtown Primary School
A Kenyon, Interim Head of School at Yanwath Primary School
R Knaggs, Headteacher at Castle Park School
S Lee, Headteacher at Castle Carrock Primary School
M Roberts, Headteacher at Newton Primary School
H Wright, Headteacher at Tebay Primary School
S McAllister, Head of Operations
G Martin, Director of Finance
K Rogerson, Head of HR
G Creighton, Head of Safeguarding
P Goodridge, Marketing & Communications Manager
J Hedges, Data Services Manager
S Lucas-Jones, Estates Manager
M Robson, Head of IT Services

Reference and administrative details (continued)
For the year ended 31 August 2025

Independent auditor	UNW LLP Chartered Accountants Citygate St James' Boulevard Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4JE
Bankers	Barclays Bank plc 33 English Street Carlisle CA3 8JX
Solicitors	Schofield Sweeney 30 Market Street Huddersfield HD1 2HG

Trustees' report
For the year ended 31 August 2025

The Trustees present their Annual Report, together with the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report of the charitable company, for the 1 September 2024 – 31 August 2025. The Annual Report serves the purposes of a Trustees' Report and a Strategic and Directors' Report under company law.

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the Trust. The charitable company is known as Cumbria Education Trust (CET).

The Trustees of CET are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. 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 of the Trust on page 1.

Members' Liability

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

Trustees' Indemnities

In accordance with normal commercial practice the Trust has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omission occurring whilst on academy trust business. The insurance provides cover of up to £10,000,000 on any one claim.

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

CET use the existing Trustees' links with local communities and businesses to recruit new Trustees with the necessary skills to bring the relevant expertise and knowledge to the Trust Board.

Trustees are appointed by the Members. Trustees have a wide range of expertise in specific areas who are interested in working on the Board of Trustees and improving outcomes for children and young people in its family of schools.

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees

All new Trustees receive a letter of appointment and a structured induction process. The Chair meets new Trustees, and further meetings are arranged with other key staff. New Trustees also receive relevant training from the Trust Services Team or from external courses where needed.

Organisational Structure

The Trust Board has four committees:

- Audit and Risk Committee
- Chief Executive Appraisal and Pay Review Sub Committee
- Organisational Development Committee
- School Improvement Committee.

Each committee has a Chair, clear meeting schedule, and Terms of Reference. The committees report to the Trust Board following their meetings.

Each academy has a Local Advisory Board (LAB), which is effectively a committee of the Trust Board. The LABs carry out their function on behalf of the Trust Board and in accordance with the policies and Scheme of Delegation determined by the Trust Board. The Scheme of Delegation was updated and approved by the Trust Board in September 2024.

During 2024/25, there was continued collaboration between the Trust Board and LABs through Governance Council meetings and feedback/reports from Directors and Executives attending LAB meetings to the Trust Board.

A training programme was arranged for the Trustees and LAB members to help them understand and develop in their roles, leading to improved challenge and support. Training included: Understanding Data, Attendance and Culture, Support and Challenge, Understanding Finance and Governance Conference.

The Chief Executive is the Accounting Officer of the Trust and a Trustee.

The Trust has a Central Leadership Team, which is made up of our Chief Executive, Directors, Headteachers and senior staff from the Trust Services teams.

The Trust Services Team comprises of eight functions: Business Operations, Communications and Marketing, Data, Estates, Finance, Governance, Human Resources, and IT.

Arrangements for Setting Pay and Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

Headteachers and teaching staff (who are part of the Central Team) are paid in line with the Standard Teachers Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD). Eight posts of the Senior Executive within the Trust Services Team are paid on the Leadership Scale and the Operational Support Team are paid in line with the National Joint Council (NJC) and Cumberland/Westmorland and Furness Local Authority Pay Structure. CET is continuing to work towards harmonising its Support Staff Pay Structure.

The CE's remuneration is reviewed annually according to our Pay Policy and considers a range of factors, including benchmarking within the sector.

Trade Union Facility Time

There were no relevant Union Officials during the year and, as such, the Trust has not incurred any costs in relation to facility time or paid trade union activities.

CET continues to pay into the Local Authority's Facilities Time Agreement and has in place a separate Trade Union Recognition Agreement.

Related Parties and Other Connected Charities and Organisations

The Trust schools work in collaboration with each other and with other local schools and organisations. The aims and objectives are as follows:

- To improve the quality of education through collaborative working arrangements.
- To extend our personal development offer.
- To ensure value for money by sharing resources, good practice and ensuring economies of scale.

CET engage with a range of local networks, including the alliance for example:

- Cumbria Association of Secondary Headteachers
- Cumbria Primary Heads Association
- University of Cumbria
- The Well Project.

CET continued its collaboration with Ambition Institute in 2024/25 to delivery National Professional Qualifications and Initial Teacher Training. The Chief Executive is also a Trustee of The Confederation of School Trusts, which is the national organisation and sector body for school trusts in England.

The Directors declare any register of interest, personal and family, and this is held publicly on the Trust website.

Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)

Employees are regularly consulted, both formally and informally, on issues which may have an impact on them. Informally this takes place by means of local academy level briefings and regular staff meetings where they have been kept informed on specific matters directly by management. Formally this is carried out in accordance the Trust Trade Union Recognition Agreement (TURA) with Trust wide engagement via the Academy Trade Union Forum, supplemented by Trust wide communications, as necessary.

Employee engagement and involvement continue through the deployment of a Trust wide Stakeholder Survey. Feedback is considered at a Trust wide and Academy level with appropriate Action Plans developed.

The Trust continues to have an established framework of HR related policies and procedures, adopting and working with the Academies Trade Union Forum, where relevant and appropriate. All policies are reviewed on a regular schedule or in response to legislative changes.

Full details of these policies are available on the Trust's website.

In accordance with the principles of equal opportunities, the Trust has long established fair employment practices in the recruitment, selection, retention, and training of all employees who may have a protected characteristic (including disability) having due regard to reasonable adjustments. This is embedded within each policy and procedure. The equality statement has been updated.

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

CET recognise the importance of developing relationships with all its stakeholders, including the local community, contractors, and suppliers. Stakeholder relationship was a key priority in the Governance Development Plan and also features on the Trust's Strategic Risk Register.

Objectives and Activities

Our mission is to be a high-performing Trust leading sector development.

Our vision is to transform lives and livelihoods through learning, so that every young person reaches their full potential.

Each of our schools has a distinctive culture, but our staff and students alike are united around our three core values of—our three Rs—of respect, responsibility, and resilience.

- **Respect.** To be tolerant and understanding of ourselves, others, and society.
- **Responsibility.** To be self-motivated to drive learning and be good citizens.
- **Resilience.** To understand and embrace challenge for personal growth.

Our motto is, be the best you can be.

Trust Improvement Plan

During 2024-25, the Trust focused on five overarching projects to deliver its strategic goals. The projects were described using objectives and key results.

1. Educational performance improves against the national standards
2. Improve the quality of services provided to schools
3. Our health and future development are secured
4. Realise the benefits of growth for new and existing schools
5. Support all the communities we serve

The first project focused on the trust's core remit of improving educational performance as indicated through national assessments. The second project sought to strengthen the quality of support services provided to schools. The third project focused on various aspects of organisational health, such as strengthening reputation and governance. The fourth project focused on realising the benefits of growth as four new schools joined the trust in year. The final project focused on our broader system and civic responsibilities.

Public Benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities, the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

The MAT structure allows economies of scale in shared services such as HR, Finance, IT, Data and School Improvement. It also presents opportunities to obtain better terms in negotiating contracts and services and hence improved value for money. The MAT Dividend, the tangible benefit of being part of a MAT, is highly evident within CET.

The Board of Trustees consider, both individually and collectively, that they have acted in the way they consider, in good faith, and would be most likely to promote the success of the charitable company for the benefit of its members as a whole, having regard to the stakeholders and members, as set out in the S172(1) (a-f) of the Act, in the decisions taken in the year ended 31 August 2025.

Strategic report

Achievements and Performance

CET has made significant improvements against the agreed strategic projects. An overview of performance against each project is given in the following section.

Key performance indicators

Project 1. School improvement: Educational performance improves against the national standards

The trust has made clear progress against key national benchmarks. The trust now exceeds the national averages for all measures at primary school. At secondary, only attainment measures are available due to disruption caused by the pandemic. Nonetheless, all achievement measures have also improved except for the A-level average point score.

- Pupils achieving a good level of development rose to 70% from 66% the year before. The national average was 67%.
- Pupils passing the phonics screening check in Y1 rose to 83% from 76% the previous year. The national average was 79%.
- Pupils average scores in the multiplication tables check rose to 22.4 out of 25 from 21.5 the previous year. The national average was 20.6.
- Pupils achieved in the expected standard in reading, writing and maths rose to 63% from 48%. The national average was 62%.
- At KS4, pupils achieving 9-5 in English and Maths rose from 37% to 40%. The national average was 46%.
- At KS4, the average total attainment 8 rose from 43.5 to 44.2. The national average was 46.3.
- At KS5, the average A-level point score lowered from 34.0 to 32.0. The national average was 35.5.
- At KS5, the average Applied general point score rose from 33.6 to 34.5. The national average was 28.1.

Seven of the trust's schools received an Ofsted inspection during 2024-25 and by the end of the year all the trust's schools had a rating of Good or better. This is a marked achievement given that many of the trust's schools joined as sponsored academies. For instance, Newtown Primary School joined the trust after being placed into Special Measures and in June secured Outstanding judgements for Behaviour and Attitudes and Personal Development together with Good judgements for all other categories.

A set of stakeholder surveys — students, staff, and parents — also showed favourable results with parental recommendation rates improving year-on-year and exceeding national average benchmarks. A key focus of professional development was behaviour management, and this area came out as one of the strongest aspects of the survey which taken together with other evidence marked a clear improvement.

Project 2. Trust Services: Improve the quality of services provided to schools

A wide range of projects have been undertaken within each Trust Service with the goal of strengthening provision for schools. One key area has been to build capacity within the Estates team, which has included making the key appointment of an Estates Manager. The operating model has transitioned to operate in hubs. An extensive summer works programme was delivered by the team, including beginning a major programme of works at Kirkby Stephen Grammar School, which will be completed over 2025-26. The team has also focused on supporting school-based staff to strengthen compliance.

Strengthening the use of data and assessment has supported some key school improvement goals. For instance, new assessments of reading fluency have been introduced in primary schools, which have supported a wider focus on reading fluency. This work has supported the number of pupils able to read fluently at 110 words correct per minute to double by the end of the year. An extensive programme has also been undertaken to rebuild the reports available to school leaders following the migration of the primary schools in the summer of 2024. Finally, cost savings have been achieved by bringing stakeholder surveys in house rather than paying for a commercial service. A core focus of all work on data has been to use reproducible analysis meaning that it is possible to build on this year-on-year.

A wide variety of digital improvements have also been made to facilitate effective and efficient collaboration, bringing door access into a single system, consolidating printing into an increasingly unified system, migrating school management information systems and strengthening how data is synchronised and shared with third parties. Work has also been undertaken to embed the use of i-Trent, the management information system for staffing information.

The Trust Services staff also played a critical role in onboarding the four new schools.

Project 3. Organisational development: Our health and future development are secured

One of the most important projects for the trust was to ensure that financial reserves remained within the DfE guidance. As described later in the report, this has been achieved successfully through prudent financial planning as well as a collective effort by all budget holders to secure maximum value for money.

Another focus was to strengthen the trust's governance. This work included the introduction of revised committee structures to strengthen communication and collaboration across the Trust Board and the Local Advisory Boards. The feedback from these changes has been broadly positive and was used to refine the process. Many new appointments were made to Local Advisory Boards too, but numerous LAB members, including multiple chairs, reached or are approaching the end of their terms of office, so LAB member recruitment remains a focus.

A full review of policies across the trust was completed. Work has also been undertaken to harmonise these wherever possible, which has been positively received by all staff as a way of reducing workload. For instance, to support the school improvement focus on behaviour, the behaviour policy was brought into a single policy across the trust.

Extensive work has also been undertaken to strengthen risk management. This work has included simplifying the organisation of the risk register and embedding the use of the risk register into more processes.

Project 4. Growth: Realise the benefits of growth for new and existing schools

Four new schools joined the trust. In December, Kirkby Stephen Grammar School joined following in January by The Queen Katherine School. Then in March, Stramongate Primary School and Castle Park Primary School also joined. The schools all joining within four months placed considerable strains on some systems, but the onboarding has largely been successful.

During 2023-24, CET's application for a new alternative provision for Cumbria was approved by the Department for Education after a competitive process. The project has been on hold while the government reviews all proposals for new schools meaning that the school will not open in September 2026 as originally intended.

A new Resource Provision was successfully opened at Hensingham Primary School and plans were also approved to open a Resource Provision at Stramongate Primary School during 2025-26.

CET continues to have conversations with other schools about joining the trust.

Project 5. Civic Duty: Support all the communities we serve

The first year of the initial teacher training programme with Ambition Institute was successfully delivered and many of the participants secured roles within the trust or with other local schools. Recruitment for 2025-26 was also successful with an increase of 70% from the first year. The trust has also continued to deliver National Professional Qualifications though the demand for these has somewhat waned in line with national trends linked to the reduction in available funding.

The trust has also engaged positively with other networks and national initiatives. For instance, a case study about the trust's work on inclusion was published by Inclusion in Practice. The trust also supported local networks in a range of ways, including leading professional development and workshops. The trust has supported other local schools through a range of informal and formal support structures, including the Regional Improvement for Standards and Excellence (RISE) programme.

We work in partnership with both our local authorities, and our Chief Executive is a member of their Strategic Partnership Boards.

The Chief Executive and Chair of the Trust Board have at the request of the DfE supported several organisations. The Trust hosted visits for Australian educators including from the Tasmanian Government, Susan McKinnon Foundation and Grattan Institute.

As the Trust reached its 10-year anniversary, an Impact Report has been prepared to highlight the impact CET has had on the joining schools and wider communities.

Going Concern

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

Promoting the success of the company

Trustees of Cumbria Education Trust, as Directors of the Company, acknowledge and welcome their duties under Section 172 of the Companies Act 2006.

With reference to the individual provisions of this section of the Act:

The likely consequences of any decision in the long term remained foremost in the Board's consideration, for example with long-term investments being made to promote educational standards.

The interests of the company's employees were considered throughout all the meetings of the Organisational Development Committee and of the main board. For 2025/6 the trust will also have a focus on improving onboarding new staff and staff wellbeing.

The need to foster the company's business relationships with suppliers, customers and others continued to inform Trustee's work and the Board supervised high-value procurements as part of its remit.

The impact of the company's operations on the community and environment remained a principal consideration given the Trust's public benefit objective. The Trust has a focus on energy reduction and for 2025/6 looking to install further solar panels.

The desirability of the company maintaining a reputation for high standards of business conduct means, to Trustees, that Cumbria Education Trust focuses on integrity, professionalism, and performance. Trustees seek to maintain a reputation for high standards of governance, transparency, and educational excellence throughout all aspects of the Trust's work.

The need to act fairly as between members of the company did not raise as a particular challenge to the Board because Cumbria Education Trust members do not have competing private interests. The Board ensures that all members are kept up-to-date with the work of the Trust and members are invited to visit schools and attend trust events.

Financial Review

Financial Risk Management Objectives and Policies

Total funds at 31 August 2025 amounted to £78,813,082 (2024: £66,290,067) of which £75,503,580 is tied up in the restricted fixed assets reserve.

At 31 August 2025, revenue funds show a surplus of £3,309,502 (2024: £1,890,995) on the Unrestricted General Fund and £nil (2024: £216,138) on the Restricted Income Fund.

The total movement in reserves was £1,202,369, the individual schools' revenue outturn positions are as follows:

Central Trust	467,895
William Howard School	24,253
Workington Academy	149,253
Yewdale Primary School	(80,074)
Longtown Primary School	10,200
Tebay Primary School	5,522
Yanwath Primary School	16,665
The Whitehaven Academy	(74,222)
Caldew Lea Primary School	35,698
Hensingham Primary School	31,637
Newtown Primary School	(47,014)
Northside Primary School	58,376
Castle Carrock Primary School	(20,505)
Petteril Bank Primary School	(14,165)
Kirby Stephen Grammar School	(62,531)
Queen Katherine School	741,503
Castle Park Primary	(179,780)
Stramongate Primary	139,658

Most of CET's income is obtained from the Department of Education (DoE) in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted for particular purposes.

Total income has increased by £27,427k (72%) to £65,542k, due to donations and capital grants increasing by £15,354k to £17,781k, due to four school acquisitions in year whose assets donated amounted to £15,926k. This is offset by a reduction in capital grants of £519k. New grants in the form of the NI grant and the Core School Budget Grant added a further £1,354k of income in year.

Other trading activity income increased by £551k (77%) to £1,266k, which includes a £192k increase in catering income due to increased pupils and self generated income increase of £200k (43%) to £464k because of an increased hires and lettings at Whitehaven Academy and other sporting facilities.
The total income received has been invested to further enhance the high-quality education provided across each school within the Trust by the employment of suitably qualified teaching staff, the provision of specialist staff support for both teaching and the various support functions of the Trust, the provision of suitable resources for the staff and students and the maintenance and refurbishment of school buildings and equipment.

Expenditure increased by £12,275k (32%) to £50,597k in year, primarily due to staff costs increasing by £10,061k (36%) to £38,131k, because of staff numbers increasing due to new schools and the cost of annual pay uplifts and pay progression. Depreciation has increased by £584k (26%) to £2,865k due to new schools joining the Trust.

CET receives grants for capital expenditure from the DFE. In accordance with Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (SORP 2019), such grants are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the Fixed Asset Fund. The restricted Fixed Asset Fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets concerned.

The Local Government Pension Scheme, as it relates to the Trust, has been valued by the Actuary as having a net surplus of £12,871k as at 31 August 2025 (2024: £2,574k) which is an increase of £10,297k compared to the previous year. This movement is primarily due to the actuarial calculations being based upon the March 2022 valuations within the LGPS, which considers the scheme's obligations against the loss on the scheme's assets, following changes in the financial assumptions, such as inflation and increases to future salary and pension payments. This results in a calculated surplus in the scheme at the end of the year. Due to uncertainties over the recoverability of the surplus by the Trust, the asset has not been recognised on the balance sheet. Further details are in note 30 to the accounts.

Reserves Policy

Maintaining adequate reserves is fundamental to the financial sustainability of the Trust. The Trustees consider the Reserves Policy each year, in light of developments, and with an aim that reserves are increased in order to provide a financial safeguard for the future and enable the Trust to manage the financial impact of year-to-year fluctuations in funding arising from changing student/pupil numbers.

A core priority of the Trust is to build sufficient reserves for unplanned events and future budget demands. To achieve this, the Trust continues to build on its reserves through planned contributions, when affordable, and other measured steps as part of its longer-term financial planning arrangement. It considers projected reserves to ascertain financial resilience and in its wider consideration around going concern.

The reserves position is revisited annually as part of the Financial Strategy. The Trust's total reserves include restricted and unrestricted funds along with any funds which are designated for particular purposes. As part of the management of designated funds, the specific purpose and the likely timing of the associated expenditure is required

Whilst reserves can be attributed to schools, see Note 21 of the annual accounts, reserve balances are pooled and managed centrally by the Trust, except for designated funds which may be attributable to specific schools.

Trustees consider whether some or all the reserves can be invested to obtain a financial return for the Trust. In making the investment decision, trustees will consider when the reserves might be needed (liquidity of the investment) and the acceptable level of investment risk; the Treasury and Investment Policy refers.

Maintaining adequate reserves also increases as the Trust grows. Trustees continue to seek to build reserves to a level that will provide the safeguards set out above.

The Trust's target reserves is one month's operating costs, which, in 2024/25 equated to circa £3.171m.

Reserves held at 31 August 2025 were £3,310k (2024: £2,107k). The current reserves level is in an acceptable range for a Trust of our size. The reserve position has increased in year, largely due to the reserves transferred from new schools who joined the Trust in year. Our growth plans which realise efficiencies through economies of scale and other continued efforts to build general reserves through planned contributions have also contributed to a stronger reserves position.

Investment Policy

Growth in Trust reserves have enabled Trustees to consider wider Investment Plans for the future, with a view to generating a modest financial return within acceptable risk levels. Acknowledging the limitations on likely returns on cash investments, which might be realised from short to medium term investment decisions, due to the economy and financial markets. Placing working capital to attract short term interest has further supported investment returns in year.

Principal Risks, Uncertainties and Risk Indicators

Risk management is embedded throughout the Trust. The Risk Register is reviewed by the Trust Board and Audit and Risk Committee, along with relevant areas at the School Improvement and Organisation Development Committee's. Similarly, LABs review localised school risks, and any significant matters are escalated. The risk register presents risks to align with its committee structure and Risk Management Policy.

The CET Executive hold regular risk management meetings.

The Audit and Risk Committee have reviewed the Health and Safety Audit arrangements. All CET Schools continued to be supported and audited by Kym Allan Health and Safety Consultants.

The maintenance and continued improvement of the CET estate is informed by a full set of Condition Surveys, which were commissioned and carried out by Chartered Surveyors. The Organisation Development Committee oversee the Capital Plan and review the projects within it.

CET, through its Board of Trustees and staff, strives to become an outstanding organisation and recognises the need to maintain and further increase pupil numbers, as they have a major influence over finance. Core risks are articulated in the risk register and contain risks, causes and effects. Specific identified risks relate to the following areas:

- Strategy
- External Factors
- School Improvement – Ofsted, Educational Outcomes, Safeguarding, and Inclusion
- Organisation – Financial Planning, Financial Management, Procurement, Health and Safety, Date Protection, Major Incident, Cyber Security, Estates, Workforce, Governance, and school-based risks.

Fundraising

CET recognises its duties as set out by the Charity Commission in its document "Charity fundraising: a guide to trustees' duties," and those in the DfE's document; Charging for school activities.

Funds raised by schools generated are retained and subject to the same controls and audit processes as other income received.

They are monitored as part of standard accounting practices and procedures and reported publicly within the annual accounts.

During the year parents are asked for voluntary contributions for specific school activities that would support the delivery of the curriculum, and this includes specific fundraising events. Following standard practices around managing voluntary contribution, schools make it clear there is no obligation to make any contribution, and no child is excluded from such an activity simply because his or her parents/carers are unwilling or unable to contribute. Furthermore, parents must not be made to feel pressured into contributing financially. As such, a contribution is voluntary and not compulsory. Where direct fundraising does occur in schools, controls are in place to ensure than funds are retained and used for the purpose intended.

CET does not use any commercial participators/professional fundraisers.

Any complaints to CET regarding its fundraising activity should be raised through the academy's complaints process.

Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting

	2024-25	**2023-24**
UK Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data for the period 1 September 24 to 31 August 25		
Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh)	6,867,278.53	5,376,783.22
Energy consumption break down (kWh) (optional):		
Gas	4,331,001.00	3,177,457.57
Electricity	1,997,897.00	1,669,587.40
Oil	321,517.93	326,665.02
Transport fuel	216,862.60	203,073.24
Scope 1: emissions in metric tonnes CO2e		
Gas consumption	792.40	581.16
Oil consumption	86.21	88.20
Owned transport - minibuses	12.41	6.03
Total scope 1	891.02	675.39
Scope 2: emissions in metric tonnes CO2e		
Purchased electricity	349.41	342.15
Scope 3: emissions in metric tonnes CO2e		
Business travel in employee-owned vehicles	42.87	42.39
Total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO2e	1,283.30	1,059.93
Intensity ratio Tonnes CO2e per pupil	0.21	0.22

Quantification and reporting methodology

We have followed the 2025 HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines. We have also used the GHG Reporting Protocol - Corporate Standard and have used the 2024 UK Government's Conversion Factors for Company Reporting.

Intensity Measurement

The chosen intensity measurement ratio is total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO2e per pupil, the recommended ratio for the sector.

Measures Taken to Improvement Energy Efficiency

SCA funding has been used to add further energy efficiency measures in year, including some replacement of windows, doors, and replacement roofing which is more insulative. We encourage the use of technology for meetings to reduce travel time and environmental impact.

Plans for Future Periods

Cumbria Education Trust is on a journey from good to great. The recently published 10 Year Impact Report set out some of the key achievements over the past decade. The next phase of the trust's journey is from good to great, which will be achieved by focusing on three themes:

- **School Improvement.** Priorities that directly enhance school performance and educational outcomes.
- **Clarifying Ways of Working.** Priorities that strengthen structures and processes to maximise effectiveness and harness the Trust's capacity.
- **Developing Our Workforce.** Priorities that grow our people to ensure excellence in teaching, leadership, and support functions.

To make progress against these themes, the trustees have approved a set of 12 trust wide projects.

1. **Primary Moves.** Strengthening teaching and learning in every classroom.
2. **Secondary Moves.** Strengthening teaching and learning in every classroom.
3. **Self-Evaluation.** Ensuring we know our schools deeply so that we can improve our schools.
4. **Leadership Excellence.** Supporting leaders to be more effective in their roles.
5. **School Improvement Processes.** Codifying our school improvement model and processes.
6. **Trust Service Processes.** Harnessing procurement, digital systems, and staff development.
7. **Hub Model.** Realising the potential of our hub model and creating a longer-term vision.
8. **Resource Allocation.** Maximising value for money across our work.
9. **Onboarding New Staff.** Onboarding new colleagues effectively and efficiently.
10. **Provisional Excellence.** Strengthening EYFS, Sixth Form, resourced and alternative provision.
11. **Staff Wellbeing.** Improving staff wellbeing through practical action.
12. **Developmental Appraisal.** Redeveloping our systems to focus more on staff development.

To bring clarity and rigour, each project is expressed through Objectives and Key Results (OKRs). The objectives set a clear direction, while the key results define the measurable outcomes against which we will judge our progress. Each school and each Trust Service has also created its own set of OKRs-aligned to trust-wide priorities but responsive to local need.

The above projects will be delivered during 2025-26. The trust is also working on developing a longer-term roadmap to support the journey from good to great.

Auditor

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware, and
- 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 17 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



M Payne
Trustee

Cumbria Education Trust

Governance statement
For the year ended 31 August 2025

Scope of Responsibility

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

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

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive, 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 CET 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 five times during the year, including an Annual Planning meeting.

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

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
G Beveridge, Chair	5	5
L Hughes, Chief Executive	5	5
M Payne, Chair of Organisation Development Committee	4	5
B Webster-Henderson (appointed 14.10.24)	5	5
Dr B Snaith (appointed 9.9.24)	5	5
R Berry	3	5
M Donnelly (resigned 19.3.25)	3	3
J O'Neill, (Coopted) Chair of Audit and Risk Committee	3	5
C Reeves (Coopted) (appointed 3.9.24)	5	5
M Hood, Chair of School Improvement Committee	4	5
S Keaveney (appointed 9.4.25)	1	2

Trustees and Chairs and Vice Chairs of the LABs meet termly in geographical hub meetings to support two-way communication.

A Governance Training Programme is in place for all Trustees and LAB members. A well-attended and successful Annual Governance Conference took place in April 2025 for Members, Trustees and LAB members across our schools.

CET welcomed four new Trustees to the Board in 2024-25 who have been fully inducted and play a full role on Trust Board meetings and Committees.

The Trust Board undertook a governance self-assessment in Spring 2025. Their Annual Planning meeting focused on the results of the self-assessment and the top three challenges from the results were:

- Reflecting and engaging with our communities;
- Strengthening our Local Advisory Boards (LABs), and
- Managing multi-layer governance.

These three challenges are now embedded in the 2025-26 Governance Objectives and Key Results (OKRs).

Organisation Development Committee

The Organisation Development Committee is a subcommittee of the main Board of Trustees and met four times during the year.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
M Payne (Chair)	4	4
G Beveridge	4	4
M Donnelly	2	3
B Webster-Henderson	4	4
R Berry	3	4
L Hughes	4	4

The CE Appraisal and Pay Review Sub Committee is a subcommittee of the Organisation Development Committee. The committee met twice in the year.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
G Beveridge	2	2
M Payne	2	2
M Donnelly	0	1

School Improvement Committee

The School Improvement Committee is a subcommittee of the main Board of Trustees and met four times during the year.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
M Hood (Chair)	4	4
G Beveridge	4	4
L Hughes	4	4
C Reeves	4	4
M Donnelly	2	2
S Keaveney	2	2

Audit and Risk Committee

The Audit and Risk Committee is also a subcommittee of the main Board of Trustees and met three times during the year.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
J O'Neill (Chair)	3	3
G Beveridge	2	3
L Hughes	3	3
M Payne	2	3
R Berry	1	3
M Hood	0	3

Local Advisory Boards

We established four new Local Advisory Boards for Kirkby Stephen Grammar School, The Queen Katherine School (QKS), Castle Park School, and Stramongate School. We welcomed a new Chair and Vice Chair for QKS LAB.

Local Advisory Boards primarily conduct their work through five meetings each academic year. However, these are supplemented by regular school visits, which are intended to give deeper insights into schools. All LAB members are encouraged to participate in two visits per academic year with the focus agreed with school leaders. The focus may be around a standing topic like safeguarding or linked to a specific improvement priority.

We continue to recruit new members for our LABs through a variety of means including a marketing and recruitment plan, social media, word of mouth and the Governors for Schools website.

Conflicts of interest

The Trust manages any conflicts of interest through maintaining a complete register of interest for all trustees and executive staff. Declarations of interest are a standing item on each meeting of the Board and its sub-committees, including Local Advisory Boards.

Review of Value for Money

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

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

- Achieving the educational outcomes, as set out in the Trustees' Report. Outcomes include many positive indicators. Educational outcomes were improved with the same resource by taking steps to further improve the quality of teaching, as set out in the strategic report.
- CET continues to enable the sharing of delivery and good practice across all schools within the Trust. This has driven up standards for lower cost.
- Staff deployment within schools is supported by Integrated Curriculum Financial Planning and with reference to core curriculum measures (e.g. contact time) to guide on staff structures. This helps to

ensure that all staff are deployed as efficiently as possible to support an improved curriculum, and to target areas in need of development. The School Improvement Committee bring effective challenge to curriculum planning.

- CET has supported and collaborated with other schools in the County and beyond. It has also supported other schools through teaching and learning and leadership programmes.
- Consolidated procurement activities continue to be developed with value for money considerations at the forefront of purchasing decisions. Working with approved purchasing frameworks provide added assurance that robust due diligence and best prices are being attained.
- Contract and services are regularly appraised and re-negotiated in a timely manner to ensure value for money.
- Options appraisals are carried out before purchases are made, including assessing the costs and benefits of alternatives over the longer term. A range of quotes are obtained for all major purchases, so that the Trust knows it is getting a good deal.
- CET explores opportunities to generate income through the letting of facilities to the local community and the provision of support services to local schools. The benefits of having excellent sporting facilities at Workington and Whitehaven academies are providing a reliable income stream for these schools.

The purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level, rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively, and economically. Trustees place reliance on the assurance provided through independent audit mechanisms, which have been delivered in year.

The system of internal control which has been in place in CET for the year 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 and up to the date of approval of the Annual Report and Financial Statements provide a good level of assurance that systems and controls are robust and operating effectively. There were no high-risk recommendations arising from the audit work undertaken. There are some instances where actions can be made to further strengthen existing internal controls and management have taken these action points forward.

Capacity to Handle Risk

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Trust is exposed to, 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 Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the year 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 and up to the date of approval of the Annual Report and Financial Statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

The Risk and Control Framework

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

- Comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Board of Trustees.
- Regular reviews by the relevant committees 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.

As part of the wider scrutiny arrangements, a programme of internal audit work is agreed to provide assurance on the internal control environment and ensure all categories of risk are being identified, reported, and managed. The Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has appointed Dodd and Co Chartered Accountants as internal auditor. The audit programme is drawn up using a risk-based approach using internal information such as financial and management data, risk actions shown in the corporate risk registers and other assessments and sector guidance, whilst also having regard to third party recommendations. The number of Internal audit days commissioned is also increased to reflect Trust growth and associated funding levels and the increasing complexities of Trust activities.

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

The Internal Auditor reports independently to the Board of Trustees through the Audit and Risk Committee, on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees financial responsibilities and reports on the work undertaken through detailed audit reports and a summary internal annual scrutiny report to the committee which outlines the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress. The audits carried out in the current period included a review of the Trust's banking arrangements, management of the purchase ledger and associated controls, appraisal of the travel and expense policy and the process for claiming expenses. Previous year's recommendations are also followed up and the arrangements for safe driving at work and the single central record were also examined.

A high level of assurance was provided by the Internal Auditor based on the programme of audit work undertaken in the current year.

Review of effectiveness

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

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

Conclusion

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 17 December 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

M Payne
Trustee

L Hughes
Accounting Officer

Cumbria Education Trust

Statement on regularity, propriety and compliance

As Accounting Officer of Cumbria Education Trust, I confirm that I have had due regard to the framework of authorities governing regularity, propriety and compliance, including the trust's funding agreement with 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 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.

L Hughes
Accounting Officer
Date: 17 December 2025

Cumbria Education Trust

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

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

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

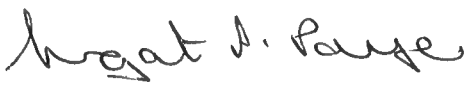
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting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

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 17 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



M Payne
Trustee

Independent auditor's report on the financial statements to the members of Cumbria Education Trust

Opinion

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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



Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

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

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

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. However, it is the primary responsibility of management, with the oversight of those charged with governance, to ensure that the entity's operations are conducted in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations and for the prevention and detection of fraud.

We obtain and update our understanding of the charitable company, its activities, its control environment, and likely future developments, including in relation to the legal and regulatory framework applicable and how the charitable company is complying with that framework. Based on this understanding, we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. This includes consideration of the risk of acts by the entity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

Based on our understanding of the charitable company, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to laws and regulations that directly affect the financial statements including financial reporting legislation (including related companies legislation), pension legislation and UK tax legislation. In addition, the charitable company is subject to many other laws and regulations where the consequences of non-compliance could have a material effect on amounts or disclosures in the financial statements, for instance through the imposition of fines and litigation. We considered the extent to which non-compliance with laws and regulations might have a material effect on the financial statements and we have assessed the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement items.

We also evaluated managements' incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risks related to posting inappropriate journal entries to manipulate financial results, management bias in accounting estimates, as well as improper income recognition which includes fraudulent posting of journal entries to income.

Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Inquiry of management and those charged with governance regarding actual and potential litigation or claims, any potential non - compliance with laws and regulations, as well as whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- Reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Using data analytics to identify journal entries based on risk criteria, in particular journal entries with unusual account combinations; and
- Challenging assumptions and judgments made by management in their significant accounting estimates and evaluating whether there was any evidence of bias by the trustees that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

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.

Use of our report

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

Anne Hallowell BSc FCA DChA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of UNW LLP, Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants
Newcastle Upon Tyne

17 December 2025

Cumbria Education Trust

Independent reporting accountant's assurance report on regularity to Cumbria Education Trust and the Department for Education

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 30 October 2025 and further to the requirements of the Department for Education (DfE) as included in the extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts 2024 to 2025, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether anything has come to our attention that would suggest, in all material respects, the expenditure disbursed and income received by Cumbria Education Trust during the year 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 have not been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of Cumbria Education Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Cumbria Education Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 1 September 2013 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2024, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Approach

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

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

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

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

Independent reporting accountant's assurance report on regularity to Cumbria Education Trust and the Department for Education (continued)

The work undertaken to support our conclusion includes:

- Testing a sample of expenditure to verify that the Trust's procurement procedures have been followed for the items selected;
- Testing a sample of payments to ensure that they are correctly authorised in accordance with the Trust's policies;
- Testing a sample of expenditure to verify the nature of spend is in line with funding agreements;
- Testing a sample of credit card transactions;
- Testing a sample of income and expenditure to ensure systems and controls are being implemented in line with the Trust's policies;
- Review of Trustee minutes;
- Review of registers of interest;
- Review of related party transactions;
- Review of the annual Internal Assurance report; and
- Obtain formal letters of representation detailing Trustees' responsibilities

Conclusion

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

UNW LLP

Reporting Accountant
UNW LLP

Date: 17 December 2025

Cumbria Education Trust

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

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	**1,567,977**	**2,027,467**	**14,185,596**	**17,781,040**	2,427,327
Other trading activities	4	**1,265,728**	**-**	**-**	**1,265,728**	714,673
Investments	5	**252,072**	**-**	**-**	**252,072**	182,152
Charitable activities	6	**-**	**45,805,138**	**-**	**45,805,138**	34,459,444
Other income	7	**292,776**	**145,135**	**-**	**437,911**	331,531
Total income		**3,378,553**	**47,977,740**	**14,185,596**	**65,541,889**	38,115,127
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds		**493,280**	**-**	**-**	**493,280**	556,757
Charitable activities		**582,693**	**46,656,218**	**2,864,950**	**50,103,861**	37,765,307
Total expenditure	8	**1,075,973**	**46,656,218**	**2,864,950**	**50,597,141**	38,322,064
Net income/(expenditure)		**2,302,580**	**1,321,522**	**11,320,646**	**14,944,748**	(206,937)
Transfers between funds	21	**(884,073)**	**884,073**	**-**	**-**	-
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)		**1,418,507**	**2,205,595**	**11,320,646**	**14,944,748**	(206,937)
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension schemes (including derecognition of surplus)	30	**-**	**(2,421,733)**	**-**	**(2,421,733)**	(280,000)
Net movement in funds		**1,418,507**	**(216,138)**	**11,320,646**	**12,523,015**	(486,937)
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		**1,890,995**	**216,138**	**64,182,934**	**66,290,067**	66,777,004
Net movement in funds		**1,418,507**	**(216,138)**	**11,320,646**	**12,523,015**	(486,937)
Total funds carried forward		**3,309,502**	**-**	**75,503,580**	**78,813,082**	66,290,067

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

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

The notes on pages 34 to 65 form part of these financial statements.

Cumbria Education Trust

Balance sheet
As at 31 August 2025

	Note		2025 £		2024 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	15		**74,951,305**		63,233,842
Current assets					
Stocks	16	**19,853**		22,238	
Debtors	17	**2,957,193**		1,929,569	
Current asset investments		**1,578,276**		1,260,882	
Cash at bank and in hand		**5,771,758**		3,808,208	
		10,327,080		7,020,897	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	19	**(6,464,878)**		(3,963,112)	
Net current assets			**3,862,202**		3,057,785
Total assets less current liabilities			**78,813,507**		66,291,627
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	20		**(425)**		(1,560)
Defined benefit pension scheme	30		**-**		-
Total net assets			**78,813,082**		66,290,067
Funds of the Academy Trust					
Restricted funds:					
Fixed asset fund	21	**75,503,580**		64,182,934	
Restricted income fund	21	**-**		216,138	
Total restricted funds	21		**75,503,580**		64,399,072
Unrestricted income funds	21		**3,309,502**		1,890,995
Total funds			**78,813,082**		66,290,067

The financial statements on pages 30 to 65 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 17 December 2025 and are signed on their behalf, by:



M Payne
Trustee

Registered company number: 07698631

The notes on pages 34 to 65 form part of these financial statements.

Cumbria Education Trust

Statement of cash flows
For the year ended 31 August 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	23	**2,532,824**	83,139
Cash flows from investing activities	25	**(396,608)**	157,855
Cash flows from financing activities	24	**144,728**	140,284
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		**2,280,944**	381,278
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		**5,069,090**	4,687,812
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	26, 27	**7,350,034**	5,069,090

The notes on pages 34 to 65 form part of these financial statements

1. Accounting policies

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

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

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

1.2 Going concern

In determining the appropriate basis of preparation of the financial statements, the Trustees are required to consider whether the use of going concern is appropriate and whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Academy Trust to continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future, being a period of at least 12 months from the date of signing of these financial statements.

The Trustees have performed this assessment and have prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis which is considered appropriate for the following reasons.

At 31 August 2025, the free reserves position was £3,309,502 (2024: £2,107,133) and the Academy Trust had cash reserves of £7,350,034 (2024: £5,069,090).

The Trustees have prepared cash flow forecasts for a period in excess of 12 months from the date of their approval of these financial statements. The cash flow forecasts that the Trustees have prepared are based on their current best estimates and are in line with the funding agreement in place with the Department for Education and show that the Academy Trust can maintain sufficient financial headroom for the foreseeable future.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.3 Income

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

Grants are included in the statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account in the year 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.

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 is used. The gain is recognised as income from donations and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the academy trust's accounting policies.

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

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

Where assets are received by the Trust on conversion to an academy, the transferred assets are measured at fair value and recognised in the balance sheet at the point when the risk and rewards of ownership pass to the Trust. An equal amount of income is recognised as a transfer on conversion within income from donations and capital grants.

Where assets are received on the transfer of an existing academy into the Trust, the transferred assets are measured at fair value and recognised in the balance sheet at the point when the risks and rewards of ownership pass to the Trust, which is on signing of the transfer agreement with the transferring trust. An equal amount of income is recognised for the transfer of an existing academy into the Trust within Income from donations and capital grants.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

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

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.5 Leases

Rentals under operating leases are charged on a straight line basis over the lease term.

1.6 Taxation

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

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

1.7 Tangible fixed assets

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

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

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.7 Tangible fixed assets (continued)

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Freehold property	-	2% (50 years)
Long-term leasehold property	-	2% (50 years)
Fixtures and fittings	-	15% (6 - 7 years)
Computer equipment	-	20% (5 years)
Motor vehicles	-	15% (6 - 7 years)

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

1.8 Stocks

Unsold uniforms and catering stocks are valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

1.9 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 Trust anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

1.10 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 17. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in notes 19 and 20. 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.

1.11 Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Trust has an obligation at the reporting date as a result of a past event which it is probable will result in the transfer of economic benefits and the obligation can be estimated reliably.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised within interest payable and similar charges.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.12 Pensions

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the Trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary based on 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 Trust in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the statement of financial activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

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

1.13 Fund accounting

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

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

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

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

2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit asset/(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 30, will impact the carrying amount of the pension asset/(liability). Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2025. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension asset/(liability). See notes 28 and 29 for further details.

Critical areas of judgment:

A significant area of judgment is the useful economic lives of fixed assets, details of which are given above.

A significant judgment is needed with regards to the recognition of the LGPS surplus. FRS102 section 28.22 states a plan surplus can be recognised only to the extent an entity is able to recover the surplus, either through reduced contributions in the future, or through refunds from the scheme. Due to significant uncertainties around the Trust's ability to recover this surplus through future reduced contributions, the asset values calculated have been capped within these financial statements and the asset has not been recognised on the balance sheet. See note 28.

3. Income from donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Donations	557,694	-	-	**557,694**
Capital grants	-	-	1,297,369	**1,297,369**
Assets donated on conversion	1,010,283	2,027,467	12,888,227	**15,925,977**
	1,567,977	2,027,467	14,185,596	**17,781,040**

3. Income from donations and capital grants (continued)

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Donations	611,414	-	611,414
Capital grants	-	1,815,913	1,815,913
	611,414	1,815,913	2,427,327

4. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	**Total funds 2025 £**	Total funds 2024 £
Hire of facilities and other income	1,265,728	**1,265,728**	714,673

5. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	**Total funds 2025 £**	Total funds 2024 £
Investment income	209	**209**	2,734
Bank interest	145,863	**145,863**	141,418
Pension income	106,000	**106,000**	38,000
	252,072	**252,072**	182,152

6. Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations

	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Academy's educational operations		
DfE grants		
General annual grant (GAG)	34,027,789	**34,027,789**
Other DfE grants		
16-19 funding	2,927,051	**2,927,051**
Pupil premium	1,906,593	**1,906,593**
UIFSM	202,683	**202,683**
PE grant	189,398	**189,398**
WELL project funding	51,796	**51,796**
Other grants - non capital	1,196,062	**1,196,062**
Pre 16 core schools funding	1,227,874	**1,227,874**
Teacher's pay grants	1,300,532	**1,300,532**
Other government grants		
Local Authority grants	2,740,165	**2,740,165**
Other grants	35,195	**35,195**
	45,805,138	**45,805,138**

6. Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations (continued)

	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Academy's educational operations		
DfE grants		
General annual grant (GAG)	27,649,934	27,649,934
Other DfE grants		
Pupil premium	1,779,283	1,779,283
UIFSM	155,270	155,270
PE grant	176,753	176,753
WELL project funding	63,562	63,562
Other grants - non capital	440,072	440,072
Mainstream grant	1,257,121	1,257,121
Teacher's pay grants	647,604	647,604
Other government grants		
Local Authority grants	1,798,492	1,798,492
Other grants	285,854	285,854
COVID-19 additional funding (DfE)		
Catch-up Premium	205,499	205,499
	34,459,444	34,459,444

7. Other incoming resources

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	**Restricted funds 2025 £**	**Total funds 2025 £**
Miscellaneous income including transport and uniforms	292,776	145,135	**437,911**

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Miscellaneous income including transport and uniforms	287,716	43,815	331,531

8. Expenditure

	Staff Costs 2025 £	Premises 2025 £	Other 2025 £	Total 2025 £
Expenditure on raising voluntary income:				
Direct costs	-	-	493,280	**493,280**
Academy's educational operations:				
Direct costs	33,640,699	-	2,686,347	**36,327,046**
Allocated support costs	5,551,425	4,032,081	4,193,309	**13,776,815**
	39,192,124	4,032,081	7,372,936	**50,597,141**

	Staff Costs 2024 £	Premises 2024 £	Other 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Expenditure on raising voluntary income:				
Direct costs	-	-	556,757	556,757
Academy's educational operations:				
Direct costs	25,000,123	-	2,126,984	27,127,107
Allocated support costs	3,956,777	3,297,967	3,383,456	10,638,200
	28,956,900	3,297,967	6,067,197	38,322,064

9. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2025 £	Support costs 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Academy's educational operations	36,327,046	13,776,815	**50,103,861**

9. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

	Activities undertaken directly 2024 £	Support costs 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Academy's educational operations	27,127,107	10,638,200	37,765,307

Analysis of support costs

	Academy's educational operations 2025 £	**Total funds 2025 £**	Total funds 2024 £
Staff costs	5,551,425	**5,551,425**	3,956,777
Depreciation	2,864,950	**2,864,950**	2,278,738
Professional services	284,016	**284,016**	233,075
Water rates	238,103	**238,103**	68,904
Maintenance of premises and equipment	629,703	**629,703**	396,147
Cleaning	431,630	**431,630**	268,821
Rent and rates	265,167	**265,167**	211,760
Heat and light	961,276	**961,276**	1,074,986
Insurance	170,018	**170,018**	143,685
Transport	366,732	**366,732**	325,971
Catering	1,009,036	**1,009,036**	893,324
Technology costs	484,822	**484,822**	387,224
Bank interest and charges	20,471	**20,471**	11,137
Other support costs	499,466	**499,466**	387,651
	13,776,815	**13,776,815**	10,638,200

10. Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2025 £	2024 £
Operating lease rentals	**53,684**	45,964
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	**2,864,950**	2,278,738
Audit of these financial statements	**24,300**	21,400

Fees paid to the Academy Trust's auditors for other assurance services amounts to £5,100 (2024: £4,225).

11. Staff

a. Staff costs and employee benefits

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	**28,332,656**	21,432,263
Social security costs	**3,276,816**	2,192,823
Pension costs	**6,521,723**	4,444,838
	38,131,195	28,069,924
Agency staff costs	**905,584**	855,151
Staff restructuring costs	**155,345**	31,825
	39,192,124	28,956,900

b. Special staff severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are non-statutory/non-contractual severance payments of £nil to no individuals (2024: £nil to no individuals).

11. Staff (continued)

c. Staff numbers

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

	2025 No.	2024 No.
Teachers	**303**	236
Administration and support	**499**	403
Leadership	**65**	56
	867	695

The average headcount expressed as full-time equivalents was:

	2025 No.	2024 No.
Teachers	**340**	277
Administration and support	**280**	226
Leadership	**63**	54
	683	557

d. 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	**26**	20
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	**17**	16
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	**8**	1
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	**1**	-
In the band £100,001 - £110,000	**2**	4
In the band £110,001 - £120,000	**2**	2
In the band £120,001 - £130,000	**1**	-
In the band £130,001 - £140,000	**1**	-
In the band £140,001 - £150,000	**1**	1
In the band £190,001 - £200,000	**-**	1
In the band £200,001 - £210,000	**1**	-

All the employees above participated in the Academy Trust's pension schemes. During the year ended 31 August 2025 pension contributions for these staff amounted to £1,230,744 (2024: £773,596).

11. Staff (continued)

e. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Trust comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Trust was £3,171,218 (2024: £2,656,829).

12. Central services

The Trust provides core central services to its schools as well as centrally driven school improvement resources and initiatives. Centrally managed service/supply contracts (e.g. ICT licences, H&S, insurance etc which are direct school costs) also feature in the central charge back to schools. For this reason, the cost of central support services is not recognised as a top slice as it includes more costs than purely central services. The cost is allocated back to schools on a pupil (weighted) basis.

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

- Executive leadership
- Human resources
- Payroll services
- Legal services
- Financial services
- Estates management
- Educational support services
- ICT services
- Governance and other costs
- School improvement
- Data services
- Media and marketing

The Trust charges for these services on the following basis:

Amount per pupil at a rate of £819.47 (2024: £838.08)

12. Central services (continued)

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
William Howard School	**856,081**	923,231
Workington Academy	**1,289,401**	1,151,997
Yewdale Primary School	**167,580**	259,196
Longtown Primary School	**160,544**	157,962
Tebay Primary School	**108,768**	75,123
Yanwath Primary School	**12,220**	106,715
The Whitehaven Academy	**833,571**	679,232
Caldew Lea Primary School	**428,200**	240,400
Hensingham Primary School	**45,410**	106,697
Newtown Primary School	**199,304**	126,327
Northside Primary School	**132,090**	99,458
Castle Carrock Primary School	**47,255**	47,742
Petteril Bank School	**53,524**	107,385
Castle Park School	**-**	-
Kirkby Stephen Grammar School	**91,500**	-
Stramongate Primary School	**-**	-
The Queen Katherine School	**241,333**	-
Total	**4,666,781**	4,081,465

13. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more Trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the Trust. 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 £	2024 £
L Hughes, Chief Executive	Remuneration	**205,000 - 210,000**	195,000 - 200,000
	Pension contributions paid	**0 - 5,000**	10,000 - 15,000

During the year ended 31 August 2025, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2024: £nil).

14. Trustees' and Officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the Trust 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 £10,000,000 on any one claim. It is not possible to quantify the Trustees and Officers indemnity element from the overall cost of the RPA scheme.

15. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property £	Long-term leasehold property £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost						
At 1 September 2024	**18,212,509**	**58,597,715**	**6,454,346**	**1,489,882**	**-**	**84,754,452**
Additions	**147,630**	**79,148**	**1,300,508**	**166,900**	**-**	**1,694,186**
Acquired on conversion	**7,990,333**	**3,658,074**	**1,183,975**	**24,825**	**31,020**	**12,888,227**
At 31 August 2025	**26,350,472**	**62,334,937**	**8,938,829**	**1,681,607**	**31,020**	**99,336,865**
Depreciation						
At 1 September 2024	**3,079,165**	**14,755,445**	**2,508,298**	**1,177,702**	**-**	**21,520,610**
Charge for the year	**459,968**	**1,046,234**	**1,162,762**	**191,333**	**4,653**	**2,864,950**
At 31 August 2025	**3,539,133**	**15,801,679**	**3,671,060**	**1,369,035**	**4,653**	**24,385,560**
Net book value						
At 31 August 2025	**22,811,339**	**46,533,258**	**5,267,769**	**312,572**	**26,367**	**74,951,305**
At 31 August 2024	15,133,344	43,842,270	3,946,048	312,180	-	63,233,842

Included within freehold and leasehold land and buildings is land of £11,556,101 (2024: £8,319,670).

Leasehold premises are leased from the local authority on 125 year leases for £nil consideration. They are included within the financial statements at valuation based upon readily available valuations prepared by Education & Skills Funding Agency, at the time the schools joined the Trust.

16. Stocks

	2025 £	2024 £
Finished goods and goods for resale	**19,853**	22,238

17. Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	**123,354**	108,279
Other debtors	**391,400**	131,937
Prepayments and accrued income	**1,919,598**	1,297,994
VAT recoverable	**522,841**	391,359
	2,957,193	1,929,569

18. Current asset investments

	2025 £	2024 £
Short term investments	**1,578,276**	1,260,882

Investments in short term deposits have an original maturity of 3 months or more. At the balance sheet date the average maturity of the deposits was 3 months (2024: 3 months).

19. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Other loans	**1,276**	1,276
Trade creditors	**1,576,259**	1,258,726
Other taxation and social security	**1,735,999**	1,046,272
Other creditors	**612,993**	183,388
Accruals and deferred income	**2,538,351**	1,473,450
	6,464,878	3,963,112

	2025 £	2024 £
Deferred income at 1 September	**763,458**	1,111,946
Resources deferred during the year	**1,322,981**	763,458
Amounts released from previous periods	**(532,140)**	(1,111,946)
	1,554,299	763,458

Deferred income relates to funding received in advance for the 2025/26 academic year.

20. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Other loans	**425**	1,560

Loans of £7,273 from Salix, in partnership with the Department for Education (DfE), were provided through the Salix Energy Efficiency Fund (SEEF). The loan provided is interest-free and repayable bi-annually over an 6-year period through a reduction in ESFA income received.

21. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 September 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2025 £
Unrestricted funds						
General funds	**1,890,995**	**3,378,553**	**(1,075,973)**	**(884,073)**	**-**	**3,309,502**
Restricted funds						
Restricted income funds	**216,138**	**45,849,007**	**(46,949,218)**	**884,073**	**-**	**-**
Pension reserve	**-**	**2,128,733**	**293,000**	**-**	**(2,421,733)**	**-**
	216,138	**47,977,740**	**(46,656,218)**	**884,073**	**(2,421,733)**	**-**
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Restricted fixed asset funds	**64,182,934**	**14,185,596**	**(2,864,950)**	**-**	**-**	**75,503,580**
Total restricted funds	**64,399,072**	**62,163,336**	**(49,521,168)**	**884,073**	**(2,421,733)**	**75,503,580**
Total funds	**66,290,067**	**65,541,889**	**(50,597,141)**	**-**	**(2,421,733)**	**78,813,082**

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

Unrestricted funds represent those resources which may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objectives of the academy trust at the discretion of the governors. Unrestricted income funds also represent the school funds which are used to administer other funds such as extra curricular school events or trips.

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

Restricted income funds comprise all other restricted funds received by the Trust and include grants from the Education and Skills Funding Agency and the Department of Education.

The transfer from unrestricted funds to restricted funds represents the use of unrestricted funds for restricted purposes, as a result of the financial position of some of the new schools that joined the Trust during the year. Whilst supported in their first year, Cumbria Education Trust will provide the necessary direction and support needed to enable improved financial sustainability in the medium to long term.

21. Statement of funds (continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	1,086,799	1,795,955	(991,759)	-	1,890,995
Restricted general funds					
Restricted income funds	1,044,446	34,465,259	(35,293,567)	-	216,138
Pension reserve	-	38,000	242,000	(280,000)	-
	1,044,446	34,503,259	(35,051,567)	(280,000)	216,138
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Restricted fixed asset funds	64,645,759	1,815,913	(2,278,738)	-	64,182,934
Total restricted funds	65,690,205	36,319,172	(37,330,305)	(280,000)	64,399,072
Total funds	66,777,004	38,115,127	(38,322,064)	(280,000)	66,290,067

21. Statement of funds (continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2025 were allocated as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Cumbria Education Trust	**1,908,397**	1,440,502
William Howard School	**(454,047)**	(478,300)
Workington Academy	**568,802**	419,549
Yewdale Primary School	**8,122**	88,196
Longtown Primary School	**10,656**	456
Tebay Primary School	**77,852**	72,330
Yanwath Primary School	**(73,871)**	(90,536)
The Whitehaven Academy	**320,726**	394,948
Caldew Lea Primary School	**355,240**	319,542
Hensingham Primary School	**1,257**	(30,380)
Newtown Primary School	**(75,137)**	(28,123)
Northside Primary School	**97,914**	39,538
Castle Carrock Primary School	**(44,755)**	(24,250)
Petteril Bank School	**(30,504)**	(16,339)
Castle Park School	**(179,780)**	-
Kirkby Stephen Grammar School	**(62,531)**	-
Stramongate Primary School	**139,658**	-
The Queen Katherine School	**741,503**	-
Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve	**3,309,502**	2,107,133
Restricted fixed asset fund	**75,503,580**	64,182,934
Pension reserve	**-**	-
Total	**78,813,082**	66,290,067

All academies carrying net deficits on their portion of the funds have balanced budgets for 2025/26 and are working towards building reserves as set out in the reserve policy for the Trust.

21. Statement of funds (continued)

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2025 £
Cumbria Education Trust	1,486,602	1,979,367	307,707	1,197,231	**4,970,907**
William Howard School	6,913,227	822,625	534,159	1,039,546	**9,309,557**
Workington Academy	7,069,837	531,410	492,170	707,858	**8,801,275**
Yewdale Primary School	1,214,769	143,539	41,866	192,921	**1,593,095**
Longtown Primary School	832,903	105,410	54,371	173,094	**1,165,778**
Tebay Primary School	304,494	51,648	10,861	56,918	**423,921**
Yanwath Primary School	652,267	51,012	20,660	163,360	**887,299**
The Whitehaven Academy	4,352,509	372,075	278,447	641,750	**5,644,781**
Caldew Lea Primary School	1,243,478	170,625	25,376	177,330	**1,616,809**
Hensingham Primary School	811,688	75,512	31,736	178,742	**1,097,678**
Newtown Primary School	752,349	70,667	21,254	188,039	**1,032,309**
Northside Primary School	440,926	19,475	26,082	89,034	**575,517**
Castle Carrock Primary School	298,131	56,434	11,907	84,442	**450,914**
Petteril Bank School	1,005,370	56,474	36,736	230,992	**1,329,572**
Kirkby Stephen Grammar School	1,541,579	186,888	101,436	261,809	**2,091,712**
The Queen Katherine School	3,349,375	579,894	287,363	552,523	**4,769,155**
Stramongate Primary School	585,695	148,139	28,515	148,455	**910,804**
Castle Park Primary School	863,322	52,410	31,278	114,098	**1,061,108**
Trust	33,718,521	5,473,604	2,341,924	6,198,142	**47,732,191**

21. Statement of funds (continued)

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2024 £
Cumbria Education Trust	1,323,800	1,487,929	280,042	1,135,377	4,227,148
William Howard School	6,426,383	787,770	477,704	1,254,181	8,946,038
Workington Academy	6,506,253	534,204	474,679	747,333	8,262,469
Yewdale Primary School	1,112,686	122,783	47,542	262,711	1,545,722
Longtown Primary School	809,700	97,393	25,430	199,030	1,131,553
Tebay Primary School	300,990	47,774	22,500	62,424	433,688
Yanwath Primary School	544,391	37,319	13,582	164,445	759,737
The Whitehaven Academy	3,748,421	435,441	272,701	500,529	4,957,092
Caldew Lea Primary School	1,205,868	152,378	30,269	209,156	1,597,671
Hensingham Primary School	719,993	74,966	17,866	182,589	995,414
Newtown Primary School	669,208	59,992	18,098	195,346	942,644
Northside Primary School	432,847	34,274	16,344	99,024	582,489
Castle Carrock Primary School	306,721	61,264	11,273	73,143	452,401
Petteril Bank School	864,784	51,368	36,172	256,936	1,209,260
Trust	24,972,045	3,984,855	1,744,202	5,342,224	36,043,326

22. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	74,951,305	**74,951,305**
Current assets	3,309,502	6,465,303	552,275	**10,327,080**
Creditors due within one year	-	(6,464,878)	-	**(6,464,878)**
Creditors due in more than one year	-	(425)	-	**(425)**
Total	3,309,502	-	75,503,580	**78,813,082**

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	63,233,842	63,233,842
Current assets	1,890,995	4,180,810	949,092	7,020,897
Creditors due within one year	-	(3,963,112)	-	(3,963,112)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	(1,560)	-	(1,560)
Total	1,890,995	216,138	64,182,934	66,290,067

23. Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Net income/(expenditure) for the year (as per statement of financial activities)	**14,944,748**	(206,937)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	**2,864,950**	2,278,738
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	**(1,297,369)**	(1,815,913)
Decrease in stocks	**2,385**	10,134
Increase in debtors	**(1,027,624)**	(56,856)
Increase in creditors	**2,501,766**	298,125
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	**(146,072)**	(144,152)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	**(293,000)**	(242,000)
Defined benefit pension scheme finance income	**(106,000)**	(38,000)
Defined benefit pension scheme asset inherited	**(2,022,733)**	-
Donated fixed assets on conversion or from predecessor trust on transfer	**(12,888,227)**	-
Net cash provided by operating activities	**2,532,824**	83,139

24. Cash flows from financing activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash inflows from bank interest	**145,863**	141,418
Repayments of borrowing (Salix loan)	**(1,135)**	(1,134)
Net cash provided by financing activities	**144,728**	140,284

25. Cash flows from investing activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	**209**	2,734
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	**(1,694,186)**	(1,660,792)
Capital grants from DfE Group	**1,297,369**	1,815,913
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities	**(396,608)**	157,855

26. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash in hand and at bank	**5,771,758**	3,808,208
Short term investments	**1,578,276**	1,260,882
Total cash and cash equivalents	**7,350,034**	5,069,090

27. Analysis of changes in net funds

	At 1 September 2024 £	Cash flows £	Other non-cash changes £	At 31 August 2025 £
Cash at bank and in hand	**3,808,208**	**1,963,550**	**-**	**5,771,758**
Debt due within 1 year	**(1,276)**	**1,135**	**(1,135)**	**(1,276)**
Debt due after 1 year	**(1,560)**	**-**	**1,135**	**(425)**
Liquid investments	**1,260,882**	**317,394**	**-**	**1,578,276**
	5,066,254	**2,282,079**	**-**	**7,348,333**

28. Transfer of academies

On 1 December 2024 the Trust took control of Kirkby Stephen Grammar School, on 1 January 2025 the Trust took control of The Queen Katherine School and on 1 March 2025 the Trust took control of both Castle Park Primary School and Stramongate Primary School. Kirkby Stephen Grammar School and Stramongate Primary School were both previously under the control of the Local Authority. The Queen Katherine School was previously under the control of The Fells Multi Academy Trust and the Castle Park Primary School was under control of Kendal Primary Multi Academy Trust. All of the operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to Cumbria Education Trust for £nil consideration.

The transfer has been accounted for as a combination that is in substance a gift. The assets and liabilities transferred were valued at their fair value and recognised in the balance sheet under the appropriate heading with a corresponding net amount recognised as a net gain in the statement of financial activities as Income from Donations and Capital Grants - assets donated on conversion.

The following table sets out the fair values of the identifiable assets and liabilities transferred and an analysis of their recognition in the statement of financial activities.

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Restricted fixed asset funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Freehold land and buildings	-	-	12,888,227	**12,888,227**
LGPS pension asset	-	2,022,733	-	**2,022,733**
Cash reserves	1,010,283	4,734	-	**1,015,017**
Net assets	1,010,283	2,027,467	12,888,227	**15,925,977**

29. Contingent asset

As set out in note 30, the Trust participates in a Local Government Pension Scheme, and the Trust's share of the scheme's assets and liabilities are calculated in accordance with FRS 102. At 31 August 2025, the position is a net surplus of £12,871,000 (2024: £2,574,000). Due to significant uncertainties around the Trust's ability to recover this surplus through future reduced contributions, the asset values calculated have been capped within these financial statements and the asset has not been recognised on the balance sheet.

30. Pension commitments

The Trust's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by Mercer. 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.

There were no outstanding or prepaid contributions at either the beginning or the end of the financial year.

30. Pension commitments (continued)

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

- Employer contribution rates set at 28.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy). This is an increase of 5% in employer contributions and the cost control result is such that no change in member benefits is needed.
- Total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £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 has been implemented from 1 April 2024. The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2027.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £4,978,508 (2024: £3,306,667).

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 Trust is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the plan. Accordingly, the Trust has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 and has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The Trust has set out above the information available on the scheme.

30. Pension commitments (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2025 was £2,271,000 (2024: £1,858,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £1,744,000 (2024: £1,433,000) and employees' contributions totalled £527,000 (2024: £425,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 24 per cent for employers and 5.8 per cent for employees.

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

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2025 %	2024 %
Rate of increase in salaries	**4.00**	4.10
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	**2.60**	2.70
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	**6.20**	5.00
Inflation assumption (CPI)	**2.50**	2.60

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

	2025 Years	2024 Years
Retiring today		
Males	**21.4**	21.4
Females	**24.0**	23.9
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	**22.6**	22.7
Females	**25.5**	25.6

Sensitivity analysis - movement on total obligation

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Discount rate +0.1%	**(602)**	(500)
Discount rate -0.1%	**612**	510
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	**587**	531
Mortality assumption - 1 year decrease	**(577)**	(520)
CPI rate +0.1%	**612**	510
CPI rate -0.1%	**(602)**	(500)

30. Pension commitments (continued)

Share of scheme assets

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

	At 31 August 2025 £	At 31 August 2024 £
Equities	**17,499,000**	10,492,000
Government bonds	**6,894,000**	4,225,000
Property	**3,664,000**	2,242,000
Cash and other liquid assets	**482,000**	632,000
Other	**19,668,000**	11,153,000
Total market value of assets	**48,207,000**	28,744,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £2,054,000 (2024: £2,164,000).

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

	2025 £	2024 £
Current service cost	**(1,380,000)**	(1,086,000)
Interest cost	**106,000**	38,000
Effect of curtailents	**-**	(47,000)
Administrative expenses	**(71,000)**	(58,000)
Total amount recognised in the statement of financial activities	**(1,345,000)**	(1,153,000)

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

	2025 £	2024 £
At 1 September	**26,170,000**	23,470,000
Transferred in on existing academies joining the trust	**13,924,000**	-
Current service cost	**1,380,000**	1,086,000
Interest cost	**1,803,000**	1,243,000
Employee contributions	**527,000**	425,000
Actuarial losses	**(7,946,000)**	335,000
Benefits paid	**(522,000)**	(436,000)
Losses on curtailments	**-**	47,000
At 31 August	**35,336,000**	26,170,000

30. Pension commitments (continued)

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

	2025 £	2024 £
At 1 September	**28,744,000**	25,216,000
Transferred in on existing academies joining the trust	**15,732,000**	-
Interest income	**2,038,000**	1,374,000
Actuarial gains	**15,000**	790,000
Employer contributions	**1,744,000**	1,433,000
Employee contributions	**527,000**	425,000
Benefits paid	**(522,000)**	(436,000)
Administrative expenses	**(71,000)**	(58,000)
At 31 August	**48,207,000**	28,744,000

Caclulation of net pension scheme asset/(liability):

	2025 £	2024 £
Fair value of scheme assets	**48,207,000**	28,744,000
Present value of scheme liabilities	**(35,336,000)**	(26,170,000)
Derecognition of scheme surplus	**(12,871,000)**	(2,574,000)
	-	-

The gains on the LGPS assets has been restricted by the derecognition.

31. Operating lease commitments

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

	2025 £	2024 £
Not later than 1 year	**70,807**	40,266
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	**183,239**	44,083
Later than 5 years	**4,000**	-
	258,046	84,349

32. 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.

33. Related party transactions

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

All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook, including notifying the DfE of all transactions made on or after 1 April 2019 and obtaining their approval where required, and with the Trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures relating to connected and related party transactions.

Details of Trustees' remuneration and expenses paid in the year are provided in note 13 to these financial statements.