

St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year ended 31 August 2025**

Company Registration Number
08270275 (England and Wales)

**Feltons
Chartered Accountants**

**Birmingham
B1 3JR**

St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Report and Financial Statements
Year ended 31 August 2025

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St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill
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Reference and Administrative Details

Members	Diocese Board of Education Representative	(appointed 26/10/12)
	Incumbent	(appointed 26/10/12)
	D Ricketts	(appointed 19/09/18)
Trustees	Frazana Akhtar	(staff trustee -appointed 07/06/24)
	Reverend Toby Crowe	(diocese trustee – appointed 09/09/21)
	Peter Cameron	(diocese trustee – appointed 02/11/23)
	S Gulzar	(community trustee - appointed 19/09/24)
	D Ricketts	*(diocese trustee - appointed 19/09/18)
		(chairperson – appointed 01/09/23)
	G Harley-Mason	(diocese trustee - appointed 19/09/18)
	K O'Keefe	(staff trustee – appointed 12/12/18)
	F Khan	*(parent trustee – appointed 12/12/18)
	P Bhardwa	(staff trustee - appointed 01/10/14, resigned 18/09/2025)
	J Gardner	*(diocese trustee - appointed 01/09/17)
	D Mahon	(parent trustee – appointed 04/07/24)
	N Hedges	*(head and accounting officer-appointed 17/04/23)
		* members of finance committee
Company secretary		D Forth (Strategic Business Manager)
Senior management team	Head Teacher	N Hedges
	Assistant Head Teacher	C Lyne
	Assistant Head Teacher	L Forrest
	Assistant Head Teacher	H Harborne
Company name		St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill
Registered office		Stratford Road Sparkhill Birmingham B11 4EA
Company registration number		82027
Independent auditor		Feltons 8 Sovereign Court 8 Graham Street Birmingham B1 3JR

St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill
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Bankers	Lloyds Bank plc	Colmore Row Branch (306410) PO Box 1000 BX1 1LT
Solicitors	Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP	134 Edmund Street Birmingham B3 2ES

St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill (A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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 period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report and a directors' report and strategic report under company law.

The academy trust operates an academy for pupils aged 3 to 11 serving a catchment area in Sparkhill, Birmingham. It has a pupil capacity of 492 including 72 part time nursery pupils, currently the Academy is operating with a nursery reduced to 52 part time pupils only 37 of these places are occupied. The Academy had a roll of 450 in the school census on 02nd October 2025.

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The Charitable Company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the Academy Trust. The Trustees of St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill are also the directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law. The Charitable Company is known as St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill.

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

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 academy has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £2,000,000 on any one claim.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

Parent trustees are elected by the parents of registered pupils at the academy. A parent trustee must be a parent of a pupil at the academy at the time when she/he is elected.

Community trustees may be appointed by the board of trustees provided that the person who is appointed as a community trustee is:

- a person who lives or works in the community served by the academy; or
- a person who, in the opinion of the board of trustees, is committed to the government and success of the academy.

Staff Trustees are elected by employees of the academy trust.

The above selection procedures are adhered to when a vacancy arises.

**St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill
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Trustees' report for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

The board of trustees has a service level agreement with the trustee support department of School and Governor Support to provide training, advice and support to the board of trustees. Attingham Education who provide the trust's governance professional also offer numerous training opportunities to new and existing trustees.

Newly elected trustees attend induction training for new trustees, and in addition select specific training provided by trustee support in accordance with their needs.

One of the trustees is appointed as link trustee, attends relevant training and provides information to trustees following such training.

The head teacher is the leader for professional development in school, and she ensures that trustees are provided with opportunities to receive training in accordance with their role, and the school's training plan.

Organisational structure

The board of trustees has established committees and appoints trustees to serve on each of the committees annually. The committees for the period of the report were:

- Finance and Operations
- Pay
- Behaviour, Attendance, Safeguarding and SEND
- Head Teacher Performance Management
- Appeals
- Staff and Pupil Discipline

The written terms of reference of the committees include the monitoring of the preparation and management of the academy's budget and implementation of the academy's financial management policies, including risk assessment.

The board of trustees also appoints a responsible officer and this role has been fully implemented in accordance with the academy trust's financial procedures.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

Pay and remuneration of the academy's key management personnel is managed through the pay committee. This group of trustees has the appropriate skills to manage this task and are assisted by an external consultant. The role of the external consultant is to ensure the process is rigorous and follows policy and procedure.

Trade union facility time

Information in accordance with Schedule 2 of the Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2018 is as follows :

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	Full-time equivalent number
0	0

**St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill
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Trustees' report for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

Trade union facility time (continued)

Percentage of time spent on facility time

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

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Total cost of facility time	£0
Total pay bill	£0
Facility time as percentage of total pay bill	0%

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	0%
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Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

None.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The strategic goal of St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill is to provide a broad and balanced curriculum to all pupils in accordance with the funding agreement between the academy trust and the Department for Education

Objectives, strategies and activities

The school aims to maintain and improve upon its good status through;

- Improving standards in the teaching and learning of the core curriculum to raise attainment in English and Maths.
- Improving the quality of teaching through developing the schools' unique broad and balanced curriculum.
- To improve the educational outcomes of pupil premium pupils.
- Ensuring children are learning in a safe, secure environment, supporting their personal, social, health and emotional needs.
- Improving leadership as the core foundation of teaching and learning.
- Review the provision of SEND and the progress SEND children make.
- Providing value for money from all expenditure.

Details as to how these aims were achieved are in the School Improvement Plan 2024-2025 and the Head Teachers report to the Governors July 2025.

St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill
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Trustees' report for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

Public benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities, the board of trustees has given careful consideration to the general guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission on their website at www.gov.uk/running-charity/managing-charity in exercising their powers or duties.

St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill is an equal opportunity employer, and strives to give full and fair consideration to all applicants for employment, training and promotions, irrespective of disability, gender, race, colour or sexual orientation.

Strategic Report

Achievements and Performance

- Provide a happy and secure and safe environment, in which children develop and achieve intellectually, emotionally, socially, physically and spiritually.
- Ensure that all children feel valued and experience success.
- Equip the children with basic skills in literacy and numeracy.
- Provide an atmosphere which enables the children to have good self-esteem.
- Help children become independent, co-operative, confident, active and reflective learners.
- Foster in our children a caring thoughtful nature, leading them to become reliable, responsible members of society.
- Equip children to be able to take pride in and look after their surroundings.
- Help children to take personal responsibility, make choices and develop purpose for their lives.
- Develop children as individuals and members of society, to provide them with experiences that promote a love of learning and enhance spiritual awareness.
- Broaden children's life experiences.
- Ensure equal opportunities for all.
- Encourage our children to have a positive cultural identity.
- Reflect the importance of the children's culture, language and special needs.
- Educate the children according to Christian principles, and raise awareness of the fundamentals of some of the major world religions.
- Develop in the children a tolerant and respectful attitude towards others in the wider

Key performance indicators

The trust was inspected on 3rd June 2025 and received a Good judgement in all areas.

Good level of development at end of foundation stage 2025: 58%

KS1

Phonics Year 1 70%

Phonics Year 2 93%

We no longer report on end of KS1 assessments as it is not statutory. Children did not complete the KS1 SATS.

KS2

	% full marks	Average score (out of 25)
Year 4 MTC	63%	23.8
KS2 SATS	% Expected Standard + Above	% High Standard
Reading	58%	28%
Writing	67%	5%
Maths	65%	18%
Grammar Punctuation & Spelling	57%	27%
Science	70%	N/A
Combined Score (Reading, Writing, Maths)	55%	2%

**St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill
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Trustees' report for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

- Direct costs as a percentage of total costs were 74.3% (2024 : 73.2%)
- Support costs as a percentage of total costs were 25.7% (2024 : 26.8%)
- Total payroll costs as a percentage of recurring income were 73.8% (2024 : 77.2%)

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the board of trustees has a reasonable expectation that the Academy 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.

Financial Review

The financial results of St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill are detailed in the following pages. It is considered that the finances are sound and well established. The principal financial management policies adopted are laid down by the Academy Trust Handbook published by the DfE and requirements as laid down by the Academy's Financial Handbook.

The principal funding source is grant income from the DfE. All expenditure of this grant income is planned to fulfil the objectives and strategies of the academy trust.

During the year ended 31 August 2025 total resources expended were £3,243,694 and the surplus of income over expenditure was £499,707 stated after depreciation of £98,145.

Reserves policy

The trustees continually monitor the reserves of the charitable company. This process encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams and the need to match commitments with income and nature of reserves.

It is the board of trustees' general policy to continue to build reserves which can be used for future educational purposes.

The academy trust had total funds at 31 August 2025 of £3,067,114 which included £315,836 restricted funds not available for general purposes of the academy trust, £127,792 of free reserves defined as unrestricted funds available for general purposes and £2,623,486 which can only be realised by the disposal of tangible fixed assets.

The balance on restricted general funds (excluding pension reserve) plus the balance on unrestricted funds was a surplus of £443,628.

In addition, during the year the FRS102 pension valuation showed a scheme asset. An asset ceiling adjustment was processed in order to reduce the asset balance to nil. Further information on this can be found within the relevant section of the notes to the accounts.

The trustees regularly review the level of reserves and aim to maintain them at a minimum of 1 month of expenditure. Budgeted expenditure for 2025/26 is £3,264,000 and hence the minimum target is £272,000. Restricted and Unrestricted reserves at 31 August 2025 therefore represent 1.63 months.

**St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill
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Trustees' report for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

Investment Policy

Surplus funds at the year end are not separately invested.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The trustees have considered the major risks and uncertainties facing the charitable company which include changes in legislation and regulations and cash flow management and have put in place procedures to deal with these matters.

Attention has also been focused on non-financial risks arising from fire, health and safety which includes consideration of those risks impacting on trustees' responsibilities to ensure the trust's estate is safe, well maintained and complies with relevant regulations. These risks are managed by ensuring accreditation is up to date, having robust policies in place, and regular awareness training for staff working in these operational areas.

The trust is seeing SEND levels increase year on year. The SENDCO works with BCC to ensure support funding is paid to the trust where relevant. The problem is this funding arrives termly in areas, The School Business Manager monitors this situation very closely, it is hoped the planned budgetary increase the trust has forecast will ensure this change doesn't create any unexpected budgetary/cash flow problems.

Fundraising

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

Plans for Future Periods

The school aims to maintain and improve upon its Good status, through:

- Improving standards in the teaching and learning of the core curriculum to raise attainment in English and Maths.
- Improving the quality of teaching through developing the schools unique broad and balanced curriculum.
- To improve the educational outcomes of pupil premium pupils.
- Ensuring children are learning in a safe, secure environment, supporting their personal, social, health and emotional needs.
- To strengthen community links.
- Improving leadership as the core foundation of teaching and learning.
- To successfully continue to embed the current SLT structure.
- Ensure any actions that have been identified by external advisors, internal/external audit are completed.
- Continue to build and join a new Diocesan Multi Academy Trust.

**St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill
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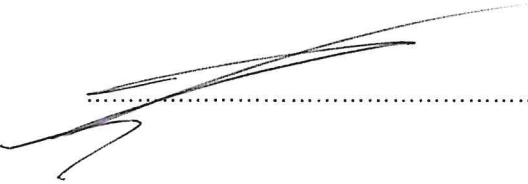
Trustees' report for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

Auditor

Insofar as the Trustees are aware :

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

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 4th December 2025 and signed on the board's behalf by:



..... Mr D Ricketts - Chair of Trustees

**St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill
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Governance statement for the year ended 31 August 2025

Scope of Responsibility

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

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

The board of trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Head Teacher, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill 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 4 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of trustees was as follows :

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Name		
N Hedges (Accounting Officer)	4	4
D Ricketts (Chair)	2	4
P Bhardwa (Support Staff Rep) (Resigned 918/09/25)	3	4
F Akhtar (Teach Staff Rep)	3	4
K O'Keefe (Support Staff Rep)	3	4
P Cameron	3	4
T Crowe	2	4
S Gulzar (Appointed 19/09/24 Joint Vice Chair)	3	4
J Gardner	4	4
G Harley-Mason	1	4
F Khan (Joint Vice Chair)	4	4
D Mahon	4	4

A review of governance is planned for the 25/26 academic year, the trustees all agreed to this action. It was felt a thorough review of governance and its structure is needed before the trust moves into a MAT. Due to unforeseen circumstances this review didn't happen in the 24/25 academic year.

Conflicts of interest

The board maintains an up-to-date register of interests. An annual form is completed each September by each trustee. If a trustee joins during the year this form is completed at their first meeting. The clerk at the start of each meeting asks if any trustee has a change in their pecuniary interests, if this is the case the change is noted in the minutes. The clerk also ensures a trustee with a conflict of interest leaves the meeting if a discussion which could cause a conflict of interests is taking place.

St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill
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Governance statement for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

Meetings

The board meets 4 times a year. The meeting agendas are carefully designed to ensure the board is fulfilling all of its duties. The meetings follow a rigid process which ensure the board are maintaining effective oversight of funds. All board members agree to two additional meeting dates held in reserve if needed, the board also agree to host any urgent extraordinary meetings virtually via Teams if required.

The **Finance and Operations Committee** is a sub-committee of the main board of trustees. Its purpose is to provide strategic support for the management of St John's Church of England Primary School's finances and staffing. All members of this committee are also members of the audit committee, who meet when called.

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
N Hedges (Accounting Officer)	5	5
D Ricketts (Chair)	4	5
J Gardner (Vice Chair)	5	5
F Khan	5	5

Review of value for money

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

The accounting officer considers how the trust's use of resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the board of trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where available. The accounting officer for the academy trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

1. Raising student attainment

Outcomes for children at the end of key stage 1 and 2 continue to be maintained when compared to context. Children start St John's well below national age related expectations and leave St John's with standards close to national expectations. The school spends a high percentage of its budget on staffing. Children make good progress from entering nursery to the end of key stage 1, again this area of the school has a high staffing ratio. Details of how pupil premium is spent can be found on St John's website, and covers the last two academic years. This document is prepared with the trustee responsible for pupil premium.

2. Robust Governance and oversight of Academy's finance

The Governors have appointed drb Management Ltd as the Responsible Officer (RO) who undertake termly reviews of key financial policies. Reports are produced which detail the Academy's compliance to the Academy Trust Handbook and demonstrate that the Academy has sound internal spending controls. These reports are presented to the Finance and Operations Committee on a termly basis. The Academy also has adopted an Anti-Fraud policy. The Academy also adopts the Academies Trust Handbook annually and complies with all updates and changes to policy and practice. The board of trustees approves the budget each year and is mindful of the need to balance expenditure against income to ensure the Academy remains a "going concern". The board of trustees also receives and approves the Statutory Accounts and the External Auditor's Management Report.

3. Ensuring Value for Money is achieved and resources are used efficiently and effectively

Contracts are regularly reviewed to ensure they conform to the Financial Regulations and limits agreed by the board of trustees. Comparable quotes are obtained for expenditure over £10,000 but below the tender limit.

4. Maximising income generation

The Academy explores every opportunity to generate income through hire of Academy facilities. The trust has been successful in providing the catering for two other local schools. Funding bids are also completed for specific projects if the criteria are met.

**St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill
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Governance statement for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

5. Reviewing controls and managing risks

Budget reports are monitored on a regular basis by the Strategic Business Manager and the Head Teacher, any remedial action is taken to address any significant variances that may have an impact on budget outturn. Significant variances are reported termly to the Finance and Operations Committee for review and action planning.

6. Reviewing operation to maximise the use of resources

The Senior Leadership Team review expenditure within each budget heading annually and make adjustments based on effectiveness of strategies introduced in previous years, curriculum development and the School Development Plan.

The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the academy trust's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in St John's CE Primary School, Sparkhill for the period from 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to handle risk

The board of trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the academy trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period from 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 academy 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 finance and general purposes committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- identification and management of risks.

The board of trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided not to appoint an internal auditor. However, the trustees have appointed N Smith, as responsible officer ('RO'). The RO's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks in the academy trust's financial systems, payroll systems, purchase systems and testing of control accounts/bank reconciliations. On a termly basis, the RO reports to the board of trustees on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities.

The 2024/2025 academic year has seen the responsible officer deliver their full schedule of work as planned. Any recommendations made are actioned before the next responsible officer visit is completed.

**St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill
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Governance statement for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

Review of Effectiveness

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

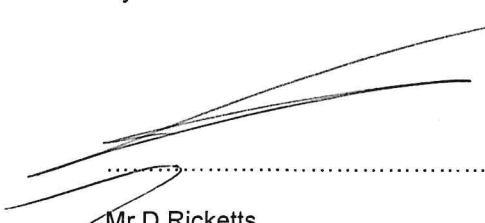
- the work of the internal reviewer
- the work of the external auditor;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process of the school resource management self-assessment tool;
- the work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and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

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

Conclusion

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 4th December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr D Ricketts
Chair of Trustees



Mrs N Hedges
Accounting Officer

**St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill
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**Statement of regularity, propriety and compliance
for the period ended 31 August 2025**

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

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

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


..... Mrs N Hedges – Accounting Officer

Date : 4 December 2025.....

**St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill
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**Statement of Trustees' responsibilities
for the period 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:

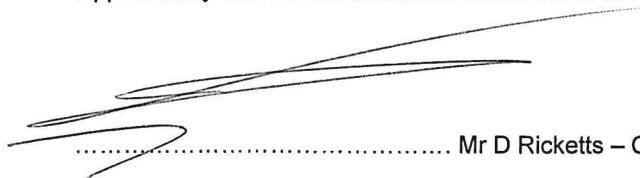
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting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

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 4th December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



..... Mr D Ricketts – Chair of Trustees

**St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of
St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill (the 'academy trust') for the year ended 31 August 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by the Department for Education.

In our opinion the financial statements :

- give a true and fair view of the state of the academy trust's affairs as at 31 August 2025, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the period then ended
- have been prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice
- 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 academy trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

- Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.
- Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

**St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of St John's Church of
England Primary School, Sparkhill
(continued)**

Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or
- the annual accounts are not in agreement with the accounting records; 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.

**St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill
(continued)**

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement [set out on page ...], the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company 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

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company'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 charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

- We reviewed the academy's control and risk management procedures and planned our work based on our assessment of those controls and procedures;
- This review included an assessment of the risk of material misstatement due to errors, fraud and management override of controls for all material areas in the financial statements;
- We made enquiries of management and the academy's lawyers regarding any actual or potential litigation and/or claims;
- Financial statements disclosures were reviewed and checked for compliance with applicable laws;
- Detailed testing was conducted on balances and transactions including unusual items and those of individual significance to the financial statements;
- Data analytics were used in order to identify unusual or significant trends;
- Communications with management and those charged with governance regarding relevant matters was undertaken throughout the audit and on completion.

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

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

St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill

(continued)

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

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

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

Use of our report

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



David W Farnsworth FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of Feltons, Statutory Auditor

8 Sovereign Court

8 Graham Street

Birmingham B1 3JR

Date : 11/12/2025

**St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill and the Secretary of State for Education

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 22 March 2021 and further to the requirements of the Department for Education (DfE), as included in the extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether anything has come to our attention that would suggest, in all material respects, the expenditure disbursed and income received by St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill during the period [insert the start date of the period for which the financial statements have been prepared] to 31 August 2025 have not been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill 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 St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill 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 St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill and the Secretary of State for Education, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the accounting officer of St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education and the Academy Trust Handbook for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Approach

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw our conclusion includes :

- Consideration of the applicable legislation and the academy trust's funding agreement
- Review and evaluation of the academy trust's system of internal controls
- Examination and assessment of the Accounting Officer's statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance
- Examination, on a test basis, of third party evidence supporting income and expenditure
- Review of exceptional and unusual items

St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill and the Secretary of State for Education (continued)

Conclusion

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



David W Farnsworth FCA (Reporting Accountant)

For and on behalf of Feltons, Statutory Auditor

8 Sovereign Court

8 Graham Street

Birmingham B1 3JR

Date : 11/12/2025

St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted pension fund £	Restricted general funds £	Restricted fixed asset funds £	Total 2024/25 £	Total 2023/24 £
Income from :							
Donations and capital grants	2	-	-	-	9,038	9,038	9,064
Charitable activities :	3						
Funding for the academy trust's educational operations		112,178	-	3,384,571	-	3,496,749	3,162,934
Other trading activities	4	15,564	-	-	-	15,564	6,927
Investments	5	50	-	-	-	50	29
Total		127,792	-	3,384,571	9,038	3,521,401	3,178,954
Expenditure on :							
Charitable activities:							
Academy trust educational operations	6	-	(88,000)	3,233,549	98,145	3,243,694	3,050,676
Total		-	(88,000)	3,233,549	98,145	3,243,694	3,050,676
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers		127,792	88,000	151,022	(89,107)	277,707	128,278
Transfers between funds	15	-	-	(27,928)	27,928	-	-
Net income/(expenditure) after transfers		127,792	88,000	123,094	(61,179)	277,707	128,278
Other recognised gains/(losses)							
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	15, 24	-	771,000	-	-	771,000	139,000
Asset ceiling adjustment	15, 24	-	(549,000)	-	-	(549,000)	
Net movement in funds		127,792	310,000	123,094	(61,179)	499,707	267,278
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward	15	-	(310,000)	192,742	2,684,665	2,567,407	2,300,129
Total funds carried forward		127,792	-	315,836	2,623,486	3,067,114	2,567,407

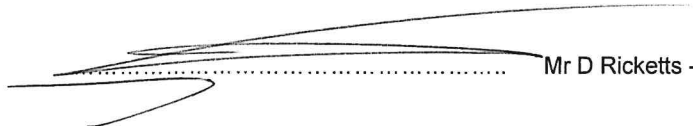
The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All of the Academy's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two financial periods.

St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Company number : 08270275
Balance sheet as at 31 August 2025

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11		2,527,486		2,588,665
Investment			96,000		96,000
Current assets					
Debtors	13	119,674		93,234	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>427,166</u>		<u>353,811</u>	
		546,840		447,045	
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14(a)	<u>103,212</u>		<u>254,303</u>	
Net current assets			443,628		192,742
Net assets excluding pension liability			<u>3,067,114</u>		<u>2,877,407</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	24		-		(310,000)
Total net assets			<u><u>3,067,114</u></u>		<u><u>2,567,407</u></u>
Funds of the academy trust :					
Restricted funds					
Fixed asset fund	15	2,623,486		2,684,665	
Restricted income fund	15	315,836		192,742	
Pension reserve	15	<u>-</u>		<u>(310,000)</u>	
Total restricted funds			2,939,322		2,567,407
Unrestricted income funds	15		127,792		-
Total funds			<u><u>3,067,114</u></u>		<u><u>2,567,407</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 22 to 45 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 4th December 2025 and are signed on their behalf by:

 Mr D Ricketts - Chair of Trustees

St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Statement of cash flows for the year ended 31 August 2025

	Notes	2024/25 £	2023/24 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	19	101,233	181,951
Cash flows from investing activities	20	(27,878)	(47,685)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		73,355	134,266
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2024		353,811	219,545
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2025	21	427,166	353,811

**St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2025

1. Accounting policies

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

1.1 Basis of preparation

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

1.2 Going concern

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

1.3 Income

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

- **Grants**

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

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the 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.

- **Donations**

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

**St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.3 Income (continued)

- **Other income**
Other income, including the hire of facilities, is recognised in the period it is receivable and to the extent the academy trust has provided the goods or services.
- **Donated goods, facilities and services**
Goods donated for resale are included at fair value, being the expected proceeds from sale less the expected costs of sale. If it is practical to assess the fair value at receipt, it is recognised in 'Stocks' and 'Income from Other Trading Activities'. Upon sale, the value of the stock is charged against 'Income from Other Trading Activities' and the proceeds are recognised as 'Income from Other Trading Activities'. Where it is impractical to fair value the items due to the volume of low value items they are not recognised in the financial statements until they are sold. This income is recognised within 'Income from Other Trading Activities'.
- **Donated fixed assets**
Where the donated good is a fixed asset it is measured at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor should be used. The gain is recognised as income from donations and 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.

1.4 Expenditure

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

- **Expenditure on raising funds**
This includes all expenditure incurred by the academy trust to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.
- **Charitable activities**
These are costs incurred on the academy trust's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the academy trust apportioned to charitable activities.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

**St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.5 Tangible fixed assets

Assets costing £500 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 over its expected useful life as follows:

Long leasehold buildings	- straight line over 50 years
Furniture and equipment	- 25% reducing balance
Computer hardware	- 20% straight line

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use and reclassified to freehold or leasehold land and buildings.

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.

1.6 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1.7 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1.8 Liabilities

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

**St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.9 Leased assets

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

1.10 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost. 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. 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 Taxation

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

Accordingly, the academy trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by 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.

1.12 Pension benefits

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

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

**St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.12 Pension benefits (continued)

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

Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by 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.

1.14 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 24, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2024. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

2. Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted general fund £	Restricted fixed asset funds £	2024/25 Total £	2023/24 Total £
Capital grants	-	-	9,038	9,038	9,064
	-	-	9,038	9,038	9,064
2024 total	-	-	9,064	9,064	

3. Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted general fund £	Restricted fixed asset funds £	2024/25 Total £	2023/24 Total £
DfE grants					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	2,317,209	-	2,317,209	2,161,332
Other DfE grants					
UFSM	-	53,187	-	53,187	48,551
Pupil premium	-	264,194	-	264,194	231,915
Core schools budget grant	-	79,158	-	79,158	-
Teachers pay grant	-	40,953	-	40,953	36,683
Teachers pension grant	-	45,348	-	45,348	18,895
Sports premium	-	19,600	-	19,600	19,600
Mainstream schools additional grant	-	-	-	-	70,103
Other DfE Group grants	-	24,102	-	24,102	30,260
	-	2,843,751	-	2,843,751	2,617,339
Other government grants					
Local authority grants	-	540,820	-	540,820	439,982
	-	540,820	-	540,820	439,982
Other income from the academy trust's educational operations	112,178	-	-	112,178	105,613
	112,178	540,820	-	652,998	545,595
	112,178	3,384,571	-	3,496,749	3,162,934
2024 total	105,613	3,057,321	-	3,162,934	

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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

4. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024/25 Total £	2023/24 Total £
Hire of facilities	15,564	-	15,564	6,927
	<u>15,564</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,564</u>	<u>6,927</u>
2024 total	<u>6,927</u>		<u>6,927</u>	

5. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024/25 Total £	2023/24 Total £
Short term deposits	50	-	50	29
	<u>50</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>29</u>
2024 total	<u>29</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>29</u>	

6. Expenditure

	Staff costs £	Non pay expenditure Premises £	Other £	2024/25 Total £	2023/24 Total £
Expenditure on raising funds	-	-	-	-	-
Academy's educational operations					
Direct costs	2,187,104	63,940	159,720	2,410,764	2,231,777
Allocated support costs	413,363	204,049	215,518	832,930	818,899
	<u>2,600,467</u>	<u>267,989</u>	<u>375,238</u>	<u>3,243,694</u>	<u>3,050,676</u>
2024 total	<u>2,453,793</u>	<u>251,428</u>	<u>345,455</u>	<u>3,050,676</u>	

Net income/(expenditure) for the period includes :

		2024/25 £	2023/24 £
Operating leases	- plant and machinery	3,320	34,140
Depreciation		98,145	96,650
Fees payable to auditor	- audit	7,480	7,627
	- other services	<u>1,500</u>	<u>848</u>

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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

7. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted pension fund £	Other restricted funds £	2024/25 Total £	2023/24 Total £
Educational operations					
Direct costs					
Educational operations	-	-	2,410,764	2,410,764	2,231,777
Support costs					
Educational operations	-	(88,000)	920,930	832,930	818,899
	-	(88,000)	3,331,694	3,243,694	3,050,676
2024 total	112,569	(49,000)	2,987,107	3,050,676	

7. Charitable activities (continued)

	Educational operations £	2024/25 Total £	2023/24 Total £
Analysis of support costs			
Support staff costs	413,363	413,363	415,024
Depreciation	34,205	34,205	30,601
Technology costs	36,169	36,169	12,831
Premises costs	173,164	173,164	178,524
Legal services - other	52	52	675
Other support costs	162,450	162,450	172,769
Governance costs	13,527	13,527	8,475
Total support costs	832,930	832,930	818,899
2024 total	818,899	818,899	

8. Staff

a) Staff costs

Staff costs during the period were:

	2024/25 £	2023/24 £
Wages and salaries	1,733,211	1,669,174
Social security costs	182,080	154,720
Pension costs	350,040	378,553
	2,265,331	2,202,447
Agency staff costs	335,136	251,346
	2,600,467	2,453,793

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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

b) Staff numbers

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

	2024/25 Number	2023/24 Number
Teachers	39	47
Administration and support	23	24
Management	4	5
	66	76

c) Higher paid staff

	2024/25 Number	2023/24 Number
The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was :		
£60,001 - £70,000	1	2
£70,001 - £80,000	-	-
£80,001 - £90,000	1	1

d) Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £629,059 (2024: £489,471).

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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

9. Related Party Transactions - Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from employment with the academy 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 :

N Hedges (principal and trustee)	
Remuneration	£80,000 - £85,000 (2024 : £75,000 - £80,000)
Employer's pension contributions paid	£20,000 - £25,000 (2024 : £15,000 - £20,000)
P Bhardwa (staff trustee)	
Remuneration	£20,000 - £25,000 (2024 : £20,000 - £25,000)
Employer's pension contributions paid	£5,000 - £10,000 (2024 : £5,000 - £10,000)
I Hudson-Evans (staff trustee) - Resigned 7/06/2024	
Remuneration	£0 - £0 (2024 : £35,000 - £40,000)
Employer's pension contributions paid	£0 - £0 (2024 : £5,000 - £10,000)
K O'Keefe (staff trustee)	
Remuneration	£25,000 - £30,000 (2024 : £30,000 - £35,000)
Employer's pension contributions paid	£0 - £5,000 (2024 : £0 - £5,000)
F Akhtar (staff trustee appointed on 7/06/24)	
Remuneration	£45,000 - £50,000 (2024 : £5,000 - £10,000)
Employer's pension contributions paid	£5,000 - £10,000 (2024 : £0 - £5,000)

During the year ended 31 August 2025, travel and subsistence expenses totalling £120 (2024 : £0) were reimbursed or paid directly to 1 (2024 : 0) trustees.

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out in note 25

10. Trustees' and officers' insurance

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

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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold land and buildings £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer hardware £	Total £
Cost or valuation				
At 1 September 2024	3,266,690	184,798	114,595	3,566,083
Additions	-	6,780	30,186	36,966
At 31 August 2025	<u>3,266,690</u>	<u>191,578</u>	<u>144,781</u>	<u>3,603,049</u>
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2024	762,230	116,196	98,992	977,418
Charge for the year	65,334	18,844	13,967	98,145
At 31 August 2025	<u>827,564</u>	<u>135,040</u>	<u>112,959</u>	<u>1,075,563</u>
Net book values				
At 31 August 2025	<u>2,439,126</u>	<u>56,538</u>	<u>31,822</u>	<u>2,527,486</u>
At 31 August 2024	<u>2,504,460</u>	<u>68,602</u>	<u>15,603</u>	<u>2,588,665</u>

12. Investment Property

	£
Valuation	
At 31 August 2025	<u>96,000</u>
At 31 August 2024	<u>96,000</u>
Net book value	
At 31 August 2025	<u>96,000</u>
At 31 August 2024	<u>96,000</u>

Investment property was valued at market value on 1 January 2013 by the Valuation Office Agency - DVS.

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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

13. Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
VAT recoverable	1,593	9,763
Prepayments and accrued income	118,081	83,471
	<u>119,674</u>	<u>93,234</u>

14. Creditors

	2025 £	2024 £
(a) Amounts falling due within one year :		
Other taxation and social security	40,907	176,113
Accruals and deferred income	62,305	78,190
	<u>103,212</u>	<u>254,303</u>

Deferred income

Deferred income at 1 September 2024	52,047	32,248
Resources deferred in the year	31,387	52,047
Amounts released from previous years	(52,047)	(32,248)
Deferred income at 31 August 2025	<u>31,387</u>	<u>52,047</u>

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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

15. Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2025 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	192,742	2,317,209	(2,166,187)	(27,928)	315,836
UIFSM	-	53,187	(53,187)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	264,194	(264,194)	-	-
Other grants	-	749,981	(749,981)	-	-
	<u>192,742</u>	<u>3,384,571</u>	<u>(3,233,549)</u>	<u>(27,928)</u>	<u>315,836</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Transfer on conversion	2,600,626	-	(65,335)	-	2,535,291
DfE Group capital grants	57,957	9,038	(12,868)	-	54,127
Capital expenditure from GAG	22,112	-	(18,834)	27,928	31,206
Local authority funding	-	-	-	-	-
Donations	3,970	-	(1,108)	-	2,862
	<u>2,684,665</u>	<u>9,038</u>	<u>(98,145)</u>	<u>27,928</u>	<u>2,623,486</u>
Pension reserve	<u>(310,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>88,000</u>	<u>222,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>2,567,407</u>	<u>3,393,609</u>	<u>(3,243,694)</u>	<u>222,000</u>	<u>2,939,322</u>
Unrestricted funds					
Other income	-	127,792	-	-	127,792
Total unrestricted funds	<u>-</u>	<u>127,792</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>127,792</u>
Total funds	<u>2,567,407</u>	<u>3,521,401</u>	<u>(3,243,694)</u>	<u>222,000</u>	<u>3,067,114</u>

The academy trust is not subject to GAG carried forward limits.

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

Restricted general funds

These comprise all restricted funds other than restricted fixed asset funds and include grants from DfE and Birmingham City Council.

Unrestricted funds

These comprise resources that may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objects of the academy trust at the discretion of the trustees.

15. Funds (continued)

Restricted fixed asset funds

These comprise resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by DfE and Birmingham City Council where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	57,338	2,161,332	(1,994,468)	(31,460)	192,742
UIFSM	-	48,551	(48,551)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	231,915	(231,915)	-	-
Other grants	-	615,523	(615,523)	-	-
	<u>57,338</u>	<u>3,057,321</u>	<u>(2,890,457)</u>	<u>(31,460)</u>	<u>192,742</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Transfer on conversion	2,665,960	-	(65,334)	-	2,600,626
DfE Group capital grants	63,290	9,064	(14,397)	-	57,957
Capital expenditure from GAG	6,029	-	(15,377)	31,460	22,112
Donations	5,512	-	(1,542)	-	3,970
	<u>2,740,791</u>	<u>9,064</u>	<u>(96,650)</u>	<u>31,460</u>	<u>2,684,665</u>
Pension reserve	<u>(498,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>49,000</u>	<u>139,000</u>	<u>(310,000)</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>2,300,129</u>	<u>3,066,385</u>	<u>(2,938,107)</u>	<u>139,000</u>	<u>2,567,407</u>
Unrestricted funds					
Other income	-	112,569	(112,569)	-	-
Total unrestricted funds	<u>-</u>	<u>112,569</u>	<u>(112,569)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds	<u>2,300,129</u>	<u>3,178,954</u>	<u>(3,050,676)</u>	<u>139,000</u>	<u>2,567,407</u>

St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill
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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

16. Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2025 are represented by:

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted pension funds £	Restricted general funds £	Restricted fixed asset funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	2,623,486	2,623,486
Current assets	127,792	-	419,048	-	546,840
Current liabilities	-	-	(103,212)	-	(103,212)
	<u>127,792</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>315,836</u>	<u>2,623,486</u>	<u>3,067,114</u>
Non-current liabilities	-	-	-	-	-
Pension scheme liability	-	-	-	-	-
Total net assets	<u>127,792</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>315,836</u>	<u>2,623,486</u>	<u>3,067,114</u>

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

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted pension funds £	Restricted general funds £	Restricted fixed asset funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	2,684,665	2,684,665
Current assets	-	-	447,045	-	447,045
Current liabilities	-	-	(254,303)	-	(254,303)
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>192,742</u>	<u>2,684,665</u>	<u>2,877,407</u>
Non-current liabilities	-	-	-	-	-
Pension scheme liability	-	(310,000)	-	-	(310,000)
Total net assets	<u>-</u>	<u>(310,000)</u>	<u>192,742</u>	<u>2,684,665</u>	<u>2,567,407</u>

17. Capital commitments

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

18. Commitments under operating leases

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

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Amounts due within one year	1,574	1,574
	<u>1,574</u>	<u>1,574</u>

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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

19. Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities	2024/25	2023/24
	Total	Total
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) for reporting period (as per the SoFA)	277,707	128,278
Adjusted for :		
Depreciation (note 11)	98,145	96,650
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(9,038)	(9,064)
Interest receivable (note 5)	(50)	(29)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable (note 24)	(101,000)	(73,000)
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost/(income) (note 24)	13,000	24,000
Decrease / (increase) in debtors	(26,440)	14,357
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	(151,091)	759
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	101,233	181,951

20. Cash flows from investing activities	2024/25	2023/24
	Total	Total
	£	£
Interest received	50	29
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(36,966)	(56,778)
Capital grants from DfE Group	9,038	9,064
Capital funding from others	-	-
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities	(27,878)	(47,685)

21. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents	At	At
	31 August	31 August
	2025	2024
	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	427,166	353,811
	427,166	353,811

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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

22. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 31 August 2024 £	Cash flows £	Other non-cash changes £	At 31 August 2025 £
Cash at bank and in hand	353,811	73,355		427,166
	<u>353,811</u>	<u>73,355</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>427,166</u>

23. 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.

24. Pension and similar obligations

The academy 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 West Midlands Pension Fund. 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.

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 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:

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

24. Pension and similar obligations (continued)

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £240,139 (2024 : £213,474).

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

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

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 £267,000 (2024: £250,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £221,000 (2024: £208,000) and employees' contributions totalled £46,000 (2024: £42,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 29.1% for employers and between 5.5% and 8.5% for employees.

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

The trustees have agreed that the trust will make additional contributions in addition to normal funding levels over the next 22 years.

Principal actuarial assumptions

	At 31 August 2025	At 31 August 2024
Rate of increase in salaries	3.70%	3.65%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment / inflation	2.70%	2.65%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	6.05%	5.00%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.70%	2.65%
Commutation of pensions to lump sums	50.00%	50.00%

Sensitivity analysis

	At 31 August 2025 £'000s	At 31 August 2024 £'000s
Discount rate +0.1%	(71)	(86)
Discount rate -0.1%	71	86
Mortality assumption 1 year increase	129	147
Mortality assumption 1 year decrease	(129)	(147)
CPI rate +0.1%	69	83
CPI rate -0.1%	(69)	(83)

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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

24. Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme (continued)

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

	At 31 August 2025	At 31 August 2024
Retiring today		
Males	18.4	18.2
Females	23.5	23.4
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	21.3	21.1
Females	24.2	24.2

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

	31 August 2025 £	31 August 2024 £
Equities	1,919,640	1,755,000
Bonds	1,430,320	1,181,000
Corporate bonds		
Property	225,840	202,000
Cash and other liquid assets	188,200	236,000
Other		
Total market value of assets	3,764,000	3,374,000

The actual return on scheme assets was 5.0% (2024 : £8.6%).

	2024/25 £	2023/24 £
Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities		
Current service cost	120,000	135,000
Interest income	(174,000)	(157,000)
Interest cost	187,000	181,000
Total amount recognised in the SoFA	133,000	159,000

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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

24. Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme (continued)

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

	2024/25 £	2023/24 £
At 1 September 2024	3,684,000	3,423,000
Current service cost	120,000	135,000
Interest cost	187,000	181,000
Employee contributions	46,000	42,000
Actuarial gains/(losses) - financial assumptions	(758,000)	(129,000)
Actuarial gains/(losses) - demographic assumptions	14,000	(7,000)
Actuarial gains/(losses) - experience gains/losses	(28,000)	99,000
Benefits paid	(50,000)	(60,000)
Asset ceiling adjustment	549,000	-
At 31 August 2025	3,764,000	3,684,000

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

	2024/25 £	2023/24 £
At 1 September 2024	3,374,000	2,925,000
Interest income	174,000	157,000
Actuarial gains/(losses)	-	-
Return on assets less interest	(1,000)	102,000
Employer contributions	221,000	208,000
Employee contributions	46,000	42,000
Benefits paid net of transfers in	(50,000)	(60,000)
Administration costs	-	-
At 31 August 2025	3,764,000	3,374,000
Net pension scheme liability	-	(310,000)

25. Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the academy 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.

The following related party transaction(s) took place during the period:

St John's Church of England Primary School, Sparkhill
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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

25. Related party transactions (continued)

Expenditure related party transaction / Income related party transaction (delete as appropriate)

Birmingham Diocesan

	2025 £	2024 £
Charitable company in which trustee A is a Director		
Services recharged by related company during the period	1,380	1,200
Amount due [from/to] related company at period end	-	-

- The provision of services to an academy trust with religious designation, for essential functions fundamental to the academy trust's religious character and ethos which can only be provided by their religious authority.

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