

Registered number: 10647453

Potteries Educational Trust

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025



Potteries Educational Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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Potteries Educational Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Reference and Administrative Details

Members	M Jones T McMillan A Rogers C Shanahan
Trustees	M Jones, Chair ³ H McLachlan, Chief Executive ^{1,4} C Freeman ^{1,3,4} P Gavin (Resigned 31 August 2025) ^{2,3} M Johnstone ⁴ P Mangnall ² C Mayer ² J Smart ¹ K Smith ⁴ K J Townshend (appointed 6 January 2025) ⁴ R Jones ¹ K Spelman Miller ⁴ J C Gething (appointed 6 July 2025) ² S Quinn (appointed 1 September 2025) ¹ Finance and Resources Committee ² Audit and Risk Committee ³ Remuneration Committee ⁴ Quality of Education Committee
Company registered number	10647453
Company name	Potteries Educational Trust
Principal and registered office	C/O City of Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College Leek Road Stoke-on-Trent Staffordshire ST4 2RU
Company secretary	S Hawley

Potteries Educational Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Reference and Administrative Details (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Executive Leadership

Team

H McLachlan, Chief Executive Officer (Accounting Officer)
T Williams, Chief Financial Officer from 1 September 2024
C Gaygan, Chief Operating Officer
L Morrey, Principal, City of Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College
D Robinson, Executive Headteacher & Trust Director of Educational Improvement - Biddulph High School & Moorside High School from 1 Nov 2024 formerly Headteacher Moorside High School until 31 October 2024
E Robinson, Headteacher - Biddulph High School until 31 October 2024
C Prince, Headteacher & Trust Director of Educational Improvement - Werrington Primary School
G Grant, Head of Academy Moorside High School from 1 November 2024
D Scott, Head of Academy Biddulph High School from 1 September 2025
S Bryan, Director of Human Resources
S Hawley, Company Secretary/Governance Professional

Independent auditors

Dains Audit Limited
Suite 2, Albion House
2 Etruria Office Village
Forge Lane
Etruria
Stoke-on-Trent
ST1 5RQ

Bankers

Lloyds Bank
Fountain Square
Hanley
Stoke-On-Trent
ST1 1LE

Solicitors

Eversheds Sutherland LLP
Two New Bailey
6 Stanley Street
Salford
M3 5GX

Potteries Educational Trust
(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 auditors' report of the charitable company for the year 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 Potteries Educational Trust, going forward referred to as 'the Trust' operates four academies in Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire. These are Biddulph High School, City of Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College, Moorside High School and Werrington Primary School serving learners from 3 to 19. Its academies have a combined student capacity of 4,270 students and had a roll of 3,853 in the college and school census returns in October 2025. The sixth form college also provides a foundation degree programme for around a further 65 students from the University of Staffordshire.

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

The Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the Trust. The Trustees of the Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as the Potteries Educational Trust.

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

b. Members' liability

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

c. Trustees' indemnities

Trustees benefit from indemnity insurance purchased at the Trust's expense to cover the liability of the Trustees which by virtue of any rule of law would otherwise attach to them in respect of negligence, default or breach of duty of which they may be guilty in relation to the Trust, provided that any such insurance shall not extend to any claim arising from any act or omission which the trustees knew to be a breach of trust or breach of duty or not, and provided also that any such insurance shall not extend to the costs of any unsuccessful defence to a criminal prosecution brought against the trustees in their capacity as Directors of the academy trust.

d. Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

Eligibility to act as a Trustee of the Trust is within the Constitutional Framework and Clauses 45 - 80 of the Articles of Association.

Up to eight Trustees are appointed by the Members and other Trustees are co-opted by the Trust Board. The Trust Board has Trustees available that can convene when there is a requirement to attract, recruit and appoint new trustees with a range of skills and background to provide the Trust with the best possible advice and support. Elected parents, staff or students are appointed to serve the Local Governing Bodies.

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Structure, governance and management (continued)

e. Policies adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

The majority of training and induction provided for each new Trustee will be based on a core programme and induction pack supplemented by additional content depending on their existing skills and experience and where necessary will provide training on charity, educational, legal and financial matters. In-house training with specialist staff is provided prior to trustee meetings. Strategic development days are held to update trustees and governors on latest developments in the sector and the possible impact on the Trust policies and priorities. Skills audits are undertaken to identify gaps and techniques implemented to review effective governance.

f. Organisational structure

The Trustees are responsible for setting general policy, adopting a three-year annual strategic plan and budget which is reviewed annually, monitoring performance and appointment of Senior Postholders. The Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Operating Officer, the Executive Headteacher/Headteacher/Principal, the Chief Financial Officer and the Governance Professional to the Trust Board are deemed to be Senior Postholders for the purposes of pay decisions by the Trust Remuneration Committee.

The Chief Executive Officer is the Accounting Officer. Decision making is determined through the Trust Scheme of Delegation. The Trust's Executive Leadership Team provides strategic leadership and the consideration of trust wide policies and curriculum delivery across the Trust. The Executive Leadership Team comprises the Chief Executive Officer, the Executive Headteacher/Headteacher/Principal/Head of Academy, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Operating Officer, Director of Human Resources and the Governance Professional.

Each academy across the Trust has its own Senior Management Team (SMT) and Middle Management Team as appropriate for the needs of the establishment. Each SMT control their own academy within the Trust at a leadership level, adhering to the scheme of delegation, implementing policies laid down by the Trustees and reporting back to them. As a group they are responsible for the authorisation of spending within approved budgets and the appointment of staff.

Middle Managers consisting of curriculum and support managers, in addition to the SMT, have delegated responsibilities and encourage decision making at all levels. This group also reviews Risk Management within the organisation.

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

Trustees make decisions on pay levels for senior postholders upon the recommendation of the Remuneration Committee. These are based on national and sector benchmarks as well as performance of individuals. Levels of pay for other senior leaders are also based on the same criteria. Pay for Executive Headteacher, Headteacher, Principal and governance & leadership of the academy is considered by the Remuneration Committee on the recommendation of the Chief Executive Officer. Pay decisions for other senior leaders are made by the Principal or Headteacher through the performance management processes.

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Structure, governance and management (continued)

h. Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the year	5
Full-time equivalent employee number	5

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	3
1%-50%	2
51%-99%	-
100%	-

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time £

Total cost of facility time	960
Total pay bill	21,136,334
Percentage of total pay bill spent on facility time	- %

Paid trade union activities

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

The Potteries Educational Trust works in partnership with local schools and colleges and in particular SASCAL, a headteachers group within the City of Stoke-on-Trent. The Trust is active in providing system leadership support to specific schools across Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire on request and forms valuable partnerships with these schools and any associated multi academy trusts. Active partnerships with other Trusts provide valuable opportunities for sharing best practice.

The Potteries Educational Trust recognises the importance of relationships with all of these bodies as well as a range of stakeholders and engages with them on a regular basis.

j. Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)

The Trust keeps its employees informed regarding matters affecting them through the PET joint development days, staff briefings, weekly bulletins, e-mails and departmental meetings. With regards to disabled individuals under the employment of the Trust, the trust has an Equal Opportunities Policy that it adheres to.

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Structure, governance and management (continued)

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

The Trust works with both internal and external stakeholders in accordance with the "Seven Principals of Public Life", these being: Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness, Honesty and Leadership. The Trust relies on external suppliers for the provision of key services and these suppliers are treated on the same basis to establish and maintain a good working relationship.

The Trust's procurement policy is dealt with in accordance with the provision of its Financial Framework, which sets out the correct process to be followed and the relevant financial delegations applying across all trust academies. The Trust aims to achieve best value for money and the best price possible from all suppliers given that a large proportion will be paid with public funds. The Trust is required to maintain the integrity of those funds whilst ensuring that a fair process is published and followed.

Communicating with students and parents/carers has been established through the use of letters, texts, e mail, social media and management information systems including CEDAR, Dojo, Arbor and ParentPay

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Objectives and activities

a. Objects and aims

Our focus is to provide the very best education for every child and young person within the Trust, offering a high quality, broad, academic education for the children and young people of Stoke-on-Trent, North Staffordshire and beyond. Working with like-minded partners, the Potteries Educational Trust centres on the development of the very best practice in teaching, learning and assessment. We will provide teaching and learning in a nurturing, supportive environment with a broad range of opportunities and extra-curricular activities available for all within the Trust.

Potteries Educational Trust is a 3 - 19 developmental MAT, caring not corporate. Each one of our academies, like our learners, is different, equal and inclusive. The PET has 450 talented staff and serves 4,000 learners across Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire. Our learners progress to high quality, highly skilled jobs and help to shape our region and our country's future.

Each academy has its own Local Governing Body so that decisions are made specific to the individual needs of each academy. Each academy has its own individual character and uniqueness. It is important for our Trust to celebrate our diversity whilst working to our common values and principles.

We offer a vast range of opportunities through the curriculum and extra curriculum activities to develop our young people for life experiences and promote high aspirations. The Trust has extensive links with regional and national businesses and universities. We provide wide ranging continuous professional development opportunities for all staff.

We are proud of being a Trust that successfully promotes the highest of aspirations in all our learners as evidenced by the multiple opportunities available to meet leading professionals and academics, explore their vocation, experience educational visits across the globe and apply successfully for the most competitive of destinations.

The PET Way:

- **Learner-Centred:** Putting children and young people at the heart of all decisions
- **Collaboration and Growth:** Fostering a staff learning culture, seeking opportunities to learn and grow together and share best practice within and outside of the Trust (collaboration, research, evidence)
- **Leadership Commitment:** All leaders understand their responsibilities to Potteries Educational Trust and their academy, and are committed to and promote our shared vision and values
- **Mastery Learning:** Ensuring every learner has the opportunity to achieve deep understanding and unlock their full potential

What we value:

- **Innovation** – to embrace creativity in all its forms
- **Respect** – to respect and celebrate the uniqueness of each of our academies and their communities
- **Community** – To be the heartbeat of our communities
- **Aspiration** – to inspire our learners to follow their dreams
- **Integrity** – to be honest, ethical and trustworthy
- **Excellence** – to strive for excellence in all that we do

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Objectives and activities (continued)

Our Strategic Plan for 2025 - 2030 includes:

Educational Provider of Choice

- **Mastery Learning:** All learners gain higher levels skills and a deep understanding of what they have learned
- **Digital Learners:** Our learners gain skills in digital learning, AI and innovative technologies which enhances their learning.

Employer of Choice

- **Everyone feels valued and contributes to Trust success:** Professional development and the work of staff contributes to our shared success with wellbeing for all
- **Shared Services:** We build capacity to deliver system leadership and reduce unnecessary workload for our staff

Partner of Choice

- **Partnerships:** Partners raise student aspirations and provide clear pathways for first choice careers
- **Partners in Excellence:** Partnerships with parents / carers / educational providers improve outcomes for young people in our Trust and our region

We shape young people to transform the future.

b. Financial Objectives

The Trust sets annual financial objectives in order to continue to maintain high standards of education and support for learners by the efficient use of funding allocated to the Trust's academies.

In addition, the Trust intends to remain financially sound so as to:

- **Maintain and further develop the very highest levels of teaching and learning for all its students.** We seek to be the centre for academic excellence in the region and to work to support colleagues in feeder schools in developing their practice also - working in a collegiate way that acknowledges we can learn as much from them as they from us and for the betterment of all young people's lives in the area.
- **Protect itself from unforeseen adverse changes in enrolments and learner activity levels.** It should be noted that although the concept of the current funding methodology reduces the risk of in year reconciliation any under achievement of targets in one year could lead to rebasing of allocations and reduced funding in future years.
- **Provide a safe, pleasant and secure working environment for all learners and staff.**
- **Generate sufficient income to enable maintenance and improvement of its accommodation and equipment.**
- **Develop staff to their full potential to enable them to motivate learners to achieve their goals.**

The Trust wishes to maintain the confidence of funders, suppliers, bankers and auditors whilst also raising the awareness of trust staff of the financial environment under which it operates.

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Objectives and activities (continued)

c. Public benefit

The Potteries Educational Trust is an exempt charity under Part 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is regulated by the Secretary of State for Education. The Directors, who are Trustees of the charitable company are disclosed on page 1.

In setting and reviewing the Trust's objectives, the trustees had due regard for the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and particularly upon its supplementary guidance on the advancement of education. The guidance sets out the requirement that all organisations wishing to be recognised as charities must demonstrate, explicitly, that their aims are for the public benefit.

In delivering its mission, the Trust provides the following identifiable public benefits through the advancement of education:

- High quality teaching and learning
- Widening participation and tackling social exclusion
- Excellent employment record for learners
- Strong learner support systems
- Links with employers, industry and commerce.

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

Key Stage 5 Achievement

As a result of their hard work and excellent teaching at the City of Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College and Biddulph High School, the Trust students' progress to a wide range of higher education courses and apprenticeships including:

- Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary
- Economics and Finance
- Mathematics, Engineering and Computing
- Medical Engineering
- Oxford, Cambridge,
- Universities of Staffordshire, Keele, Sheffield, Derby, Manchester, Cardiff, Bristol, Loughborough, York, Chester, Plymouth, Imperial College London, University of Arts London and many more
- Apprenticeships or Degree Apprenticeships with Rolls Royce, University Hospital North Midlands Trust, Cyberkiln, Thompson Wright Chartered Accountants, Promteck, Volvo, FGP Knutsford and Goodwin Engineering.

PET students have achieved some of the highest results nationally in Computer Science, Physics, Mathematics, Politics, Business Studies, History, Health and Social Care, Arabic, T Level Education and Early Years, Health Sciences, Finance and creative courses like Games Design, Dance and Music. T Level Education reflects the Trust's strong focus on skills and strong partnerships.

Outcomes in A Level courses

Overall, Trust results show that while attainment increased in both academies with attainment in High Grades 42% at Biddulph High School and 47% at City of Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College. A - E Pass rates are above or close to national at City of Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College and Biddulph High School.

Outcomes in Vocational and Technical courses

Results for High Grades in Vocational and Technical courses are a strength across the trust with SFC High Grades of 80% for their Diploma and Certificate courses (including extended) which is a 17% increase from the previous year and BHS achieving 54% High Grades an 18% increase from the previous year. This is an improved picture overall and pass grades for vocational courses at both academies were above national results.

Technical education continues to be outstanding at PET as it reflects our focus on skills and strong partnerships with a wide range of employers like University Hospital North Midlands Trust, Staffordshire Highways Laboratory, Cyberkiln, Siemens and the Home Office. T Level courses at SFC achieved 85.7% High Grades and 98.2% pass rates which is well above national averages.

GCSE resit data continues to be a strength of our Trust with GCSE resits in Maths above national average at both Biddulph High School and City of Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College. GCSE resits in English at City of Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College were above national average for the fourth year in a row, well above the local GCSE English and Maths outcomes.

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

Key Stage 4 Achievement

Learners at Biddulph High School, Moorside High School and the City of Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College have once again achieved excellent examination results this year in GCSE and Level 2 Vocational courses. The hard work and dedication of students and staff have led to exceptional results across the board. This includes an increase in learners achieving grades 9 - 7 in English and Maths and 100% of students achieving the qualifications to enable them to attend their chosen destinations.

Potteries Educational Trust learners have achieved top results in German, English, Science, GCSE PE, Computer Science, Graphics, History, Geography, Music and Business Studies.

Successes include

English and Maths Success: 10% students in English and Maths achieved grades 9 - 7 at Biddulph High School and 20% of Moorside High School achieving 9 - 7 grades in English, Maths and English results at 9 - 4 above or in line with national at both academies. 45 grade 9s were achieved at Biddulph High School. Wider curriculum success includes 100% Chemistry and Biology at grades 9 - 4 and 100% Further Maths achieving grade 9 at Biddulph High School, and 100% grades 9 - 5 for Business, 77% grades 9 - 5 for Music with 33% achieving grade 9 - 7 in Music and 87% achieved grade 9 - 5 in Physics at Moorside High School. 100% of students taking vocational courses at Moorside High School passed.

Key Stage 2 Achievement

The progress of Werrington Primary School's Year 6 learners was strong with a significant majority making expected or better than expected progress. The expected Reading Writing Maths 67% was improved from the previous year and above national average but higher Reading Writing Maths at 5% is slightly better than 2024 (4%) but below national average. Writing and spelling punctuation and grammar continue to be above or in line with national outcomes for the fourth year in a row. Higher Reading (32%) is above 2024 although slightly below national average.

Key Stage 1 and EYFS Achievement

Results at Werrington Primary School show that phonics has sustained improvements in outcomes whilst at early years foundation stage outcomes for reception classes reflected the complex nature of the cohort. Learners achieving good level of development (GLD) increased to 71% (59% in 2024). Nursery outcomes are in line with Staffordshire averages.

The Trust are pleased with an overall good set of outcomes for our learners, including attendance above national expectations in every one of our academies, reflecting our commitment to ensuring our children and young people attend and enjoy school.

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

a. Key performance indicators

The Trust continues to monitor the performance of its academies through regular monitoring by the CEO and Senior Management Teams within each academy. Specialist resources are targeted to specific areas as necessary.

The Trust operates in line with the requirements of its Funding Agreement with the Department for Education (DfE) and manages its reserves in line with the Trust's financial policies.

All Potteries Educational Trust academies are rated Ofsted Good.

b. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Board of Trustees has a reasonable expectation that the Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason they continue 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 accounting policies.

c. Promoting the success of the company

The Trust provides systems, structures and external networks to support the work in the Trust's academies to enable them to prioritise their time on teaching, learning strategies and outcomes for their schools. The Trust believe that this allows academy leadership and local committees to focus on the needs of the children and young people in their academies within a supportive framework.

The Trust works hard to ensure that each academy environment is fit for purpose and that environmental impact is considered when decisions are made regarding trust infrastructure. Estates projects over the last few years at the Trust's academies have used both local and regional workforces and ecological standards have been observed.

The professional conduct of our trustees, governors, staff and visitors is of the utmost importance to the Trust. All are expected to abide by relevant codes of conduct and trust policies.

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Strategic report (continued)

Financial review

The Trust receives the majority of its funding from the Department for Education (DfE), formerly, Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of recurrent grant paid on a monthly basis. The grant received during the period is shown as 'Restricted Funds' in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Trust also benefits from a Devolved Formula Capital Grant which is used for maintenance projects and investment in resources.

The Trust has fixed assets of £53,084,797, cash of £1,529,636 and short-term investment balances of £2,141,045. The Trust has accumulated reserves and cash balances in order to create a contingency fund for future capital development.

Restricted funds total £663,309 and movements during the year are shown in note 21 to the financial statements.

The Trust has reliance on the education sector funding bodies for its principal funding source, largely from recurrent grants.

a. Reserves policy

The Board of Trustees recognise the importance of reserves in the financial stability of any organisation and ensures there are adequate reserves to support the Trusts' core activities. This review encompasses the nature of the income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of the reserves.

The Trust aims to continue to accumulate reserves and cash balances to enable future capital developments and cushion the effects of any further decreases in real terms funding levels. Discussions are also taking place with partner organisations to develop further sports facilities for the City of Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College to replace those at Fenton Manor following either the end of the current period or early termination outside of the control of the Trust.

Any schools joining the Trust will adhere to the Trust's reserves policy which states that reserves will not be pooled. The Board of Trustees and each academy's Local Governing Body will decide on how their respective academy reserves will be spent in consultation from the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer.

Upon review of the Trust reserves position at 31 August 2025, the current balance of restricted general funds (excluding pensions and enhanced pension reserves) is £827,079 plus a £1,503,699 balance on unrestricted reserves funds.

The reserves currently held are slightly below the Trust's target which is contained within the Reserves Policy. For confirmation this is £1,905,000 which broadly represents 6.9% of total annual funding. The Trust continues to set out to steadily increase reserves each year, with capital investment projects targeted across the Trust for use of these funds when necessary and suitable funds permit.

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

b. Investment policy

Treasury management is the management of the Trust's cash flows, banking and money market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with these activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with the associated risks. The Trust has a separate investment policy in place.

During the period there was no short-term borrowing for temporary revenue purposes and the Trust has no bank loans. Any borrowing requires the authorisation of the Trustees and must comply with the requirements of the Funding Agreement agreed with the DfE.

c. Principal risks and uncertainties

The Trust has undertaken further work during the year to develop and embed the system of internal control, including financial, operational and risk management which is designed to protect the Trust's assets and reputation.

Based on the strategic plan and academy improvement plans, Executive Leadership Team and Senior Leadership Teams and undertake regular comprehensive reviews of the risks to which the Trust is exposed. They identify systems and procedures, including specific preventable actions which should mitigate any potential impact on the Trust. The internal controls are then implemented and the subsequent year's appraisal will review their effectiveness and progress against risk mitigation actions. In addition to annual reviews, the Executive Leadership Team and Senior Leadership Teams also consider any risks which may arise as a result of a new area of work being undertaken by the Trust.

A detailed risk register is maintained at both Trust and academy level which is reviewed at least termly by the Audit and Risk Committee and more frequently where necessary. The risk register identifies the key risks, the likelihood of those risks occurring, their potential impact on the Trust and the actions being taken to reduce and mitigate the risks. Risks are prioritised using a consistent scoring system. This is supported by a risk management training programme to raise awareness of risk throughout the Trust.

Key risks for each academy are identified at a strategic analysis review meeting in September and reviewed in March, and are reported and reviewed together with the impact of mitigations at Local Governing Body meetings.

Outlined below is a description of the principal risk factors that could affect the Trust although not all of the factors are within the Trust's control. Other factors besides those listed below may also adversely affect the Trust.

d. Government Funding

The Trust has considerable reliance on continued government funding through the education sector funding bodies. There can be no assurance that government policy or practice will remain the same or that public funding will continue at the same levels or on the same terms. Demographic trends also have a significant impact on recurrent funding.

Fundraising

The Trust does not use external fundraisers. Fundraising is monitored at a local level by individual academies

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Streamlined energy and carbon reporting

The Trust's greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption for the year are as follows:

	2025	2024
Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh)	3,506,797	3,509,553
Energy consumption breakdown (kWh):		
Gas	1,866,868	1,834,819
Electricity	1,615,252	1,639,642
Transport fuel	24,677	35,091
Scope 1 emissions (in tonnes of CO2 equivalent):		
Gas consumption	341	335
Owned transport	2	8
Total scope 1	<u>343</u>	<u>343</u>
Scope 2 emissions (in tonnes of CO2 equivalent):		
Purchased electricity	<u>286</u>	<u>340</u>
Scope 3 emissions (in tonnes of CO2 equivalent):		
Business travel in employee-owned or rental vehicles	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
Total gross emissions (in tonnes of CO2 equivalent):	<u>633</u>	<u>688</u>
Intensity ratio:		
Tonnes of CO2 equivalent per pupil	<u>0.16</u>	<u>0.18</u>

Quantification and Reporting Methodology

We have followed the 2019 HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines. We have also used the GHG Reporting Protocol – Corporate Standard and have used the 2025 UK Government's Conversion Factors for Company Reporting.

Intensity Measurement

The chosen intensity measurement ratio is total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO2e per pupil (based on the autumn census), the recommended ratio for the sector.

Measures taken to improve energy efficiency

We have smart meters in place at our academy sites and have also increased the amount of video conferencing technology now in use across the Trust, in order to reduce the need for travel between sites and for travel to sites for some governance meetings.

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Plans for future periods

The Trust remains concerned that future austerity plans along with high inflation and high energy costs will continue to impact negatively on the education sector.

The challenges faced by the sector include:

- Developing the curriculum to meet the needs of learners with the introduction of linear courses and changes to vocational qualifications
- Meeting the challenge of continued restrictions in funding
- Increases in high inflationary employer payroll costs
- Maintaining the quality and experience for learners
- National challenges with recruitment and retention in certain subject areas
- Growth of the trust through continued collaboration with schools and academies in the best interests of learners
- Changing demographics of children and young people

Resources

The Trust has resources that it can deploy in pursuit of its strategic objectives:

- Established and well-trained staff
- Excellent ICT infrastructure
- Its reputation as an organisation that achieves excellent results, together with high quality learner support and collaboration
- Excellent facilities and physical resources

Events after the End of the Reporting Period

There have been no significant or material events to report after the period end.

Potteries Educational Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

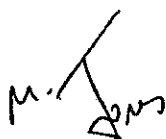
Disclosure of information to auditors

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware, and
- that Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are 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 11 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

M Jones
Chair



H McLachlan
Accounting officer



Potteries Educational Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Governance Statement

Scope of responsibility

As Trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Potteries Educational Trust 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 Handbook and competency framework for governance.

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive Officer, 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 Potteries Educational Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met 5 times during the year.

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

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
M Jones, Chair	4	5
H McLachlan, Chief Executive	5	5
C Freeman	5	5
P Gavin (resigned 31 August 2025)	5	5
M Johnstone	3	5
P Mangnall	3	5
C Mayer	3	5
J Smart	4	5
K Smith	4	5
K J Townshend (appointed 6 January 2025)	3	3
R Jones	5	5
K Spelman Miller	5	5
J C Gething (appointed 6 July 2025)	0	0
S Quinn (appointed 1 September 2025)	0	0

Conflicts of Interest

The Trust maintain a register of interests which contains any business or pecuniary interests that trustees and leaders have. These are reviewed at least annually. A specific agenda item is included on each Trust Board, Committee and LGB meeting as a reminder for trustees and governors to declare any changes to the register of interests together with any declaration of any conflict of interest they may have in items on the meeting agenda.

Governance Statement (continued)

Governance (continued)

Governance Review

During the 2024/25 academic year the Board has undertaken an internal review of future skills requirements in readiness for succession planning and transition arrangements to mitigate a risk of term of office end dates which are potentially due to end at a similar time. External leadership and governance reviews were completed for City of Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College and Werrington Primary School together with an External Review of the Trust Board in Autumn Term 2024. Subsequent actions were identified and developed into action plans or included in Academy Improvement Plans as appropriate.

Each Board, Committee and Local Governing Body agenda includes an item for reflection of the effectiveness of governance.

The Finance and Resources Committee is a committee of the main board of trustees. The Committee has met three times during the year. Its purpose is to assist the Board through regular monitoring of its financial performance, approving capital projects and the monitoring of other key performance indicators.

During the 2024/25 financial year the Committee continued to monitor the progress and financial management of the budget for the Trust. Variations to budget were evaluated closely following a budget re-forecast at the start of the Autumn Term 2024. Risks to budget positions were monitored closely to ensure impact of mitigations and effective use of resources.

Pay awards for 2024 were approved for implementation.

The Executive Leader structure was reviewed and implemented. Leadership structure proposals for Biddulph High School and Moorside High School were considered, agreed and implemented.

To provide capacity across the Trust a proposal to implement shared service areas and relevant consultation implementation of shared service for Human Resources and Finance were agreed with effect from 1 September 2025.

Estate condition improvements were evaluated, and approval granted for applications for Condition Improvement Funding to be made with no match funding from academy reserves. CIF fundings applications were not successful for our academies. Use of Trust reserves were approved to create a suite for the Principalship of the College and development of other space to accommodate the implementation of a trust wide shared service for Human Resources and Finance. Utility contracts were reviewed and new contracts implemented. Significant investment approved in IT assets. Revised asset management system approved and implemented. Lockdown system approved and implemented. Anti-virus renewal approved.

Lettings policy for specific academies reviewed and charges reviewed.

The STEM Learning Science Learning Partnership contract, Computing Hub and Digital School House contracts were ended by the DfE. It is acknowledged that this impacts on income for the Trust and required a redundancy consultation.

A link governor from each academy Local Governing Body is invited to be in attendance at the Finance and Resources committee to aid engagement of governance at the local level.

Potteries Educational Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Governance Statement (continued)

Governance (continued)

Attendance during the year at Finance and Resources Committee meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
R Jones (Chair)	3	3
C Freeman	3	3
H McLachlan	3	3
J Smart	3	3

The Audit and Risk Committee is a committee of the main board of trustees. The Committee has met three times during the year. Its purpose is to ensure statutory compliance and assist the Board in ensuring the adequacy and effectiveness of control systems and procedures and in considering audit and other reports.

During the 2024/25 financial year the Committee continued to regularly review the risk register and impact of the relevant mitigations and made recommendations as appropriate to the Trust Board. The committee continue to monitor and oversee compliance with statutory requirements. Reviews completed for the recommendation of systems related to Risk Management, Asset Management and safety systems.

An external review of governance was completed. The committee oversee the process for review of effective governance on behalf of the Board. Recommendations from the review and relevant succession planning strategies implemented and continue to be monitored.

The Trust Whistle Blowing Policy and the Trust Complaints Policy reviewed and implemented.

Attendance during the year at Audit and Risk Committee meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
P Magnall (Chair)	3	3
C Mayer	3	3
P Gavin (resigned 31 August 2025)	3	3
J Gething (Co-opted until 6 July 2025)	3	3

The Remuneration Committee is a committee of the main board of trustees. The Committee has met once during the year, its purpose is to consider and advise on:

- the performance of the holders of senior posts as determined by the Board.
- the remuneration, other terms and conditions of the holders of senior posts as determined by the Board.
- the appraisal of the holders of senior posts as determined by the Board.
- the staff development the holders of senior posts as determined by the Board.

Governance Statement (continued)

Governance (continued)

Attendance during the year at Remuneration Committee meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
C Freeman	1	1
P Gavin (resigned 31 August 2025)	1	1
M Jones (Chair)	1	1

Quality of Education Committee

The Quality of Education Committee is a committee of the main board of trustees. The Committee has met four times during the year. Its purpose is to assist the board in the discharge of its strategic responsibilities for educational performance and improvement, student progress and destinations and high expectations of all learners.

Throughout the year the committee continue to monitor the impact of teaching and learning strategies on the achievement and progress of learners. A trust wide Teaching and Learning Policy was reviewed and implemented. A review of provision for disadvantaged learners was commissioned. A trust wide attendance strategy and statement was reviewed and implemented. Attendance and Behaviour data dashboards continued to be received and monitored.

A link governor from each academy Local Governing Body is invited to be in attendance at the Quality of Education committee to aid engagement of governance at the local level and a connection to academy data and trust wide strategies.

Attendance during the year at Quality of Education Committee meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
K Smith (Chair)	4	4
C Freeman	4	4
H McLachlan	4	4
K Townsend (appointed 6 January 2025)	2	3
K Spelman Miller	4	4
M Johnstone	3	4

Local Governing Body

Each Academy has a Local Governing Body which is a committee of the Trust Board. The constitution, membership and proceedings of the Local Governing Body is determined by the Trust Board and through the Scheme of Delegation. As part of the review of effective governance Local Governing Bodies requested to remove sub-committees and hold a LGB meeting once per half term, one meeting with a focus on the quality of education and other meeting in the academic term with a focus on finance and resources. In line with the Scheme of Delegation, LGB has a focus on the detailed scrutiny of data and reports, to hold executive leaders to account together with engagement of stakeholder (learners, staff and parents/carers) for the relevant academy. Following a further review of effective governance and consultation with trustees and governors, to support the workload of both governors and academy leaders Local Governing Bodies will hold one LGB meeting per academic term together with an additional governance activity for example quality assurance, link governor visits.

Governance Statement (continued)

Governance (continued)

Following the successful introduction of a system for a link governor from each academy to be in attendance at the Board Quality of Education Committee and the Finance and Resources Committee, the link governor process will be introduced for the Audit and Risk Committee. The impact of the introduction of LGB link governors at Board Committees has been an increase in communication and understanding across all strands of governance which supports more effective decision making, strategic thinking and policy development.

Review of value for money

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

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

The accounting officer for the Trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- A trust wide contracts database continues to be further developed and monitored with all Trust members to identify joint procurement opportunities to ensure savings and best value is applied to all future contract purchasing across the Trust.
- Strong procurement support within estates capital projects, and energy contract costs in order to maximise the value for money for our investment
- Introduction of new systems for asset and estate management

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 Trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Potteries Educational Trust for the year 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 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 ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the year 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

Governance Statement (continued)

The risk and control framework

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

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

The Board of Trustees has decided to buy-in an internal audit service from Hardings Accountants.

The Board of Trustees has decided to employ Hardings Accountants as internal auditor due to the cost-effective nature of the services offered.

The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial and other matters and performing a range of checks on the Trust's financial systems. In particular, the checks carried out in the current period included

- Expenditure

There were no material control issues reported by the internal auditor during the year.

On an annual basis, the reviewer reports to the Board of Trustees through the Audit and Risk committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities. On an annual basis the reviewer prepares a summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

Governance Statement (continued)

Review of effectiveness

As accounting officer, the Chief Executive Officer 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 reviewer;
- the school resource management self-assessment tool;
- the work of the executive managers within the Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- the work of the external auditors;

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

Conclusion

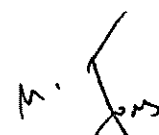
Based on the advice of the audit and risk committee and the accounting officer, the board of trustees is of the opinion that the academy trust has an adequate and effective framework for governance, risk management and control.

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

M Jones

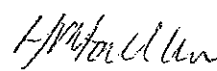
Chair of Trustees

Date:


11 December 2025

H McLachlan

Accounting Officer




Potteries Educational Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance

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

I confirm that I, and the board of trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the 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.



H McLachlan
Accounting Officer

Date: 11 December 2025

**Statement of Trustees' responsibilities
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025**

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

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

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

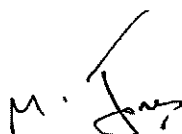
The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements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

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

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

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

M Jones
Chair of Trustees



Date: 11 December 2025

Independent Auditors' Report on the financial statements to the Members of Potteries Educational Trust

Opinion

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Potteries Educational Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Independent Auditors' Report on the financial statements to the Members of Potteries Educational Trust
(continued)

Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Independent Auditors' Report on the financial statements to the Members of Potteries Educational Trust
(continued)

Responsibilities of trustees

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

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

Auditors' 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 Auditors' 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:

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the senior statutory auditor ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the Trust through discussions with directors and other management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the sector;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the Trust, including the financial reporting legislation, Academies Act 2010, Companies Act 2006, Academies Accounts Direction, taxation legislation, anti-bribery, employment, and environmental and health and safety legislation;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

Potteries Educational Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Independent Auditors' Report on the financial statements to the Members of Potteries Educational Trust
(continued)

We assessed the susceptibility of the Trust's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in Note 2 were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- reviewing correspondence with HMRC, relevant regulators and the Trust's legal advisors.

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

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

Potteries Educational Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Independent Auditors' Report on the financial statements to the Members of Potteries Educational Trust
(continued)

Use of our report

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

Dains Audit Ltd

Simon Hawkins (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of

Dains Audit Limited

Statutory Auditor

Suite 2, Albion House

2 Etruria Office Village

Forge Lane

Etruria

Stoke-on-Trent

ST1 5RQ

Date: *11 December 2025*

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Potteries Educational Trust and the Secretary of State for Education

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 21 October 2025 and further to the requirements of the Department for Education (DfE) as included in the extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts 2024 to 2025, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether anything has come to our attention that would suggest, in all material respects, the expenditure disbursed and income received by Potteries Educational Trust during the year 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 have not been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of Potteries Educational Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Potteries Educational Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 26 March 2021 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2024, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Approach

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

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

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

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

Potteries Educational Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Potteries Educational Trust
and the Secretary of State for Education (continued)**

Conclusion

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

Dains Audit Ltd

Dains Audit Limited

Suite 2, Albion House
2 Etruria Office Village
Etruria
Forge Lane
Stoke-on-Trent
ST1 5RQ

Date: *11 December 2025*

Potteries Educational Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Restricted	Total	Total
		funds	funds	fixed asset	funds	funds
		2025	2025	2025	2025	2024
	Note	£	£	£	£	£
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	-	-	(36,435)	(36,435)	60,106
Other trading activities	5	50,600	297,006	-	347,606	771,424
Investments	6	86,750	228,000	-	314,750	207,307
Charitable activities		403,901	26,562,213	-	26,966,114	26,215,739
Total income		541,251	27,087,219	(36,435)	27,592,035	27,254,576
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	7	401,262	25,980,351	1,536,971	27,918,584	28,052,681
Total expenditure		401,262	25,980,351	1,536,971	27,918,584	28,052,681
Net income/(expenditure)		139,989	1,106,868	(1,573,406)	(326,549)	(798,105)
Transfers between funds	21	(37,755)	(318,025)	355,780	-	-
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)		102,234	788,843	(1,217,626)	(326,549)	(798,105)
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	28	-	4,066,000	-	4,066,000	1,589,000
Pension surplus not recognised	28	-	(4,562,000)	-	(4,562,000)	(1,620,000)
Net movement in funds		102,234	292,843	(1,217,626)	(822,549)	(829,105)

Potteries Educational Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds - class ii 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	1,401,465	370,466	54,404,123	56,176,054	57,005,159
Net movement in funds	102,234	292,843	(1,217,626)	(822,549)	(829,105)
Total funds carried forward	1,503,699	663,309	53,186,497	55,353,505	56,176,054

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

The notes on pages 39 to 75 form part of these financial statements.

Potteries Educational Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
Registered number: 10647453

Balance Sheet
As at 31 August 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	14	53,084,797	54,318,876
		<u>53,084,797</u>	<u>54,318,876</u>
Current assets			
Stocks	15	27,007	36,824
Debtors	16	807,683	990,691
Investments	17	2,141,045	2,070,390
Cash at bank and in hand	26	1,529,636	1,294,228
		<u>4,505,371</u>	<u>4,392,133</u>
Current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	(1,916,816)	(2,180,011)
		<u>2,588,555</u>	<u>2,212,122</u>
Net current assets			
		<u>55,673,352</u>	<u>56,530,998</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	19	(156,077)	(192,839)
Provisions for liabilities	20	(163,770)	(162,105)
		<u>55,353,505</u>	<u>56,176,054</u>
Net assets excluding pension asset			
		<u>55,353,505</u>	<u>56,176,054</u>
Total net assets			
		<u><u>55,353,505</u></u>	<u><u>56,176,054</u></u>
Funds of the Trust			
Restricted funds:			
Fixed asset funds	21	53,186,497	54,404,123
Restricted income funds	21	663,309	370,466
		<u>53,849,806</u>	<u>54,774,589</u>
Total restricted funds			
Unrestricted income funds	21	1,503,699	1,401,465
		<u>55,353,505</u>	<u>56,176,054</u>
Total funds			
		<u><u>55,353,505</u></u>	<u><u>56,176,054</u></u>

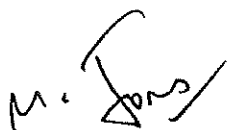
Potteries Educational Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
Registered number: 10647453

Balance Sheet (continued)
As at 31 August 2025

The financial statements on pages 34 to 75 were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and are signed on their behalf, by:

M Jones
Chair of Trustees

Date: 11 December 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Jones', is written over the printed name and title.

The notes on pages 39 to 75 form part of these financial statements.

Potteries Educational Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	23	438,982	(658,223)
Cash flows from investing activities	25	(165,800)	(618,637)
Cash flows from financing activities	24	(37,774)	108,965
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		235,408	(1,167,895)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		1,294,228	2,462,123
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	26, 27	<u>1,529,636</u>	<u>1,294,228</u>

The notes on pages 39 to 75 form part of these financial statements

1. Accounting policies

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

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

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

1.2 Going concern

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 Trust 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 Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Income

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

• **Grants**

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.

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.

• **Other income**

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.4 Expenditure

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

- **Expenditure on raising funds**

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

- **Charitable activities**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.5 Taxation

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

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

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

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

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

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Freehold property	- 2% straight line
Long-term leasehold property	- Over the life of the lease
Furniture and equipment	- 12.5% straight line
Office equipment	- 12.5 to 25% straight line

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

1.7 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks.

1.8 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.

1.9 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. Accounting policies (continued)

1.10 Liabilities

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

1.11 Provisions

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

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

1.12 Financial instruments

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

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

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in notes 18 and 19. 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.

1.13 Operating leases

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.14 Pensions

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

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

The LGPS is a funded multi-employer scheme, and the assets are held separately from those of the Trust in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each Balance Sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

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

1.15 Fund accounting

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

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

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

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

2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 28, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2025. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Land and Buildings Valuation

The freehold land and buildings within the accounts relates to the academy premises which were donated to the Academy Trust on conversion. The land and buildings were valued using an independent valuer. These are being depreciated in accordance with the depreciation policies set out in note 1.

LGPS surplus recognition

An entity shall recognise a plan surplus as a defined benefit plan asset only to the extent that it is able to recover the surplus either through reduced contributions in the future or through refunds from the plan. The trust are expected to participate in the LGPS indefinitely and therefore do not believe there is any entitlement to a refund. The trust has also instructed the pension actuary to calculate an asset ceiling report to calculate the estimated economic benefit available as a reduction in future contributions, which shows a £Nil value. Management have therefore derecognised the total pension surplus of £8,999,000, which has resulted in the movement in surplus of £4,562,000 to be derecognised in the year.

Potteries Educational Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

3. Income from donations and capital grants

	Restricted funds 2025 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Donations	-	-	-	2,138
Capital Grants	-	(36,435)	(36,435)	57,968
	-	(36,435)	(36,435)	60,106
Total 2024	2,138	57,968	60,106	

In the current year, T Level grant funding amounting to £130,000 has been clawed back.

Potteries Educational Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

4. Funding for the Trust's charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
DfE grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	10,751,913	10,751,913	10,322,584
Other DfE grants				
Sixth Form Funding	-	10,296,333	10,296,333	10,079,320
Pupil Premium	-	363,402	363,402	372,972
Universal Infant Free School Meals	-	37,716	37,716	50,100
Rates Reclaim	-	34,080	34,080	84,375
Student support	-	427,753	427,753	392,243
Teaching schools grant	-	43,736	43,736	-
Teachers Pay Grant	-	235,719	235,719	99,725
Teachers Pension Grant	-	805,539	805,539	553,746
PE Grant	-	19,610	19,610	19,620
Other DfE/ESFA Grants	-	1,550,576	1,550,576	1,553,208
	-	24,566,377	24,566,377	23,527,893
Other Government grants				
SEN Funding	-	562,281	562,281	537,257
Early years fundings	-	295,429	295,429	181,825
Other local authority grants	-	11,004	11,004	94,298
Other government income	-	44,238	44,238	19,333
	-	912,952	912,952	832,713
Other income from the Trust's educational operations	403,901	1,082,884	1,486,785	1,680,753
COVID-19 additional funding (DfE)				
Covid Recovery Premium	-	-	-	37,111
Covid Tuition Fund	-	-	-	137,269
	-	-	-	174,380

Potteries Educational Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

4. Funding for the Trust's charitable activities (continued)

	403,901	26,562,213	26,966,114	26,215,739
Total 2024	254,123	25,961,616	26,215,739	

Following review, a number of Income codes have been reclassified to align with the Annual Accounts Return.

5. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Hire of Facilities	50,600	-	50,600	57,419
Income from clubs	-	92,836	92,836	109,578
RPA Claims	-	8,285	8,285	963
Other trading income	-	195,885	195,885	603,464
	50,600	297,006	347,606	771,424
Total 2024	57,419	714,005	771,424	

Following review, a number of income codes have been reclassified to align with the Annual Accounts Return.

Potteries Educational Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

6. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Investment Income	86,750	-	86,750	72,307
Pension income	-	228,000	228,000	135,000
	<u>86,750</u>	<u>228,000</u>	<u>314,750</u>	<u>207,307</u>
Total 2024	<u>72,307</u>	<u>135,000</u>	<u>207,307</u>	

7. Expenditure

	Staff Costs 2025 £	Premises 2025 £	Other 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Educational Operations:					
Direct costs	17,879,396	-	2,461,102	20,340,498	20,054,917
Allocated support costs	3,256,938	-	4,321,148	7,578,086	7,997,764
	<u>21,136,334</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,782,250</u>	<u>27,918,584</u>	<u>28,052,681</u>
Total 2024	<u>19,917,636</u>	<u>1,557,846</u>	<u>6,577,199</u>	<u>28,052,681</u>	

Potteries Educational Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2025 £	Support costs 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Educational Operations	20,340,498	7,578,086	27,918,584	28,052,681
Total 2024	20,054,917	7,997,764	28,052,681	

Analysis of direct costs

	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Staff costs	17,879,396	16,511,362
Educational supplies	167,408	252,579
Examination fees	556,819	528,956
Staff development and other staff costs	65,941	74,296
Technology costs	170,763	169,462
Educational consultancy	172,775	174,543
Other costs	1,316,681	2,327,894
Recruitment and other staff expenses	10,715	15,825
	20,340,498	20,054,917

Potteries Educational Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Staff costs	3,256,938	3,406,274
Depreciation	1,536,971	1,519,504
Catering	470,413	494,651
Staff training and development	37,637	65,633
Consultancy	31,517	24,737
Insurance	93,372	83,866
Other support costs	273,780	283,448
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	542
Administration expenses	147,553	182,094
Building maintenance	254,095	226,233
Cleaning and caretaking	325,719	294,682
Loan interest	2,009	-
Rates	29,210	82,646
Home to school transport	3,917	6,043
Energy costs	608,273	869,042
Legal and professional	127,247	126,867
Transport costs	68,983	69,714
Pension costs	16,020	12,698
Other premises costs	245,167	229,110
Governance costs	49,265	19,980
	7,578,086	7,997,764

Potteries Educational Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

9. Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2025 £	2024 £
Operating lease rentals	92,990	25,192
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	1,536,969	1,519,111
Fees paid to auditors for:		
- audit	20,500	20,500
- other services	2,295	2,295
	<u>20,795</u>	<u>22,795</u>

10. Staff

a. Staff costs and employee benefits

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	15,349,773	14,722,720
Social security costs	1,780,098	1,544,092
Pension costs	3,772,021	3,405,813
	<u>20,901,892</u>	<u>19,672,625</u>
Agency staff costs	234,442	245,011
	<u>21,136,334</u>	<u>19,917,636</u>

Potteries Educational Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

10. Staff (continued)

b. Staff numbers

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

	2025	2024
	No.	No.
Teachers	197	190
Administration and support	211	205
Management	19	20
	427	415

c. Higher paid staff

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

	2025	2024
	No.	No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	20	8
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	10	7
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	2	2
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	-	3
In the band £100,001 - £110,000	-	1
In the band £110,001 - £120,000	2	-
In the band £130,001 - £140,000	1	-

d. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Trust comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Trust was £978,295 (2024 - £783,416).

11. Central services

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

- Educational support
- Trust CPD
- Financial Management
- Audit Services
- Financial Software
- Payroll
- Human Resources
- Employee Assistance Programme
- Governance Services
- Data Protection Officer Services
- Estates
- ICT Network Services
- Data Management

The Trust charges for these services on the following basis:

The Trust charges for these services based on 3.8% GAG and Pension Income

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
City of Stoke-On-Trent Sixth Form College	400,875	334,056
Biddulph High School	194,663	165,773
Moorside High School	192,053	168,082
Werrington Primary School	76,888	66,251
Total	864,479	734,162

12. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

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

	2025	2024
	£	£
H McLachlan (appointed CEO on 1 January 2024) Remuneration	135,000 -	80,000 -
	140,000	85,000
Pension contributions paid	35,000 -	20,000 -
	40,000	25,000

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

13. Trustees' and Officers' insurance

The 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 membership.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

14. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property £	Long-term leasehold property £	Furniture and equipment £	Plant and machinery £	Assets under construction £	Total £
Cost or valuation						
At 1 September 2024	30,083,468	30,267,406	430,357	1,365,218	7,686	62,154,135
Additions	258,757	32,688	-	19,131	-	310,576
Disposals	-	-	-	(511)	(7,686)	(8,197)
At 31 August 2025	30,342,225	30,300,094	430,357	1,383,838	-	62,456,514
Depreciation						
At 1 September 2024	3,538,942	3,301,996	137,815	856,506	-	7,835,259
Charge for the year	574,213	726,410	49,369	186,977	-	1,536,969
On disposals	-	-	-	(511)	-	(511)
At 31 August 2025	4,113,155	4,028,406	187,184	1,042,972	-	9,371,717

Potteries Educational Trust
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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

14. Tangible fixed assets (continued)

Net book value	Freehold property £	Long-term leasehold property £	Furniture and equipment £	Plant and machinery £	Assets under construction £	Total £
At 31 August 2025	26,229,070	26,271,688	243,173	340,866	-	53,084,797
At 31 August 2024	26,544,526	26,965,410	292,542	508,712	7,686	54,318,876

Potteries Educational Trust
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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

15. Stocks

	2025	2024
	£	£
First Bus Tickets	27,007	36,824

16. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	58,238	137,754
Other debtors	159,141	136,024
VAT recoverable	146,603	193,193
Prepayments and accrued income	443,701	523,720
	<u>807,683</u>	<u>990,691</u>

17. Current asset investments

	2025	2024
	£	£
Long term interest accounts	2,141,045	2,070,390

Potteries Educational Trust
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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

18. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Other loans	27,823	28,835
Trade creditors	401,611	533,666
Other taxation and social security	389,636	330,301
Other creditors	487,550	501,171
Accruals and deferred income	610,196	786,038
	<u>1,916,816</u>	<u>2,180,011</u>
	2025 £	2024 £
Deferred income at 1 September	512,178	762,111
Resources deferred during the year	450,307	512,178
Amounts released from previous periods	(512,178)	(762,111)
	<u>450,307</u>	<u>512,178</u>

£442,215 (2024: £512,178) relates to DfE grants in advance and funds received in relation to trips.

Included in other loans are salix and CIF loans totalling £27,823 which are interest free loans repayable in fixed installments over 8-10 years starting January 2019.

19. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Other loans	<u>156,077</u>	<u>192,839</u>

Included in other loans are salix and CIF loans totalling £156,077 which are interest free loans repayable in fixed installments over 8-10 years starting January 2019.

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Notes to the Financial Statements
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20. Provisions

	Enhanced pensions £
At 1 September 2024	162,105
Amounts accrued	1,665
	<hr/>
	163,770
	<hr/>

The enhanced pension provision relates to the cost of staff who already left the Trust's employment and commitments for reorganisation costs from which the trust cannot reasonably withdraw at the balance sheet date. The provision has been recalculated in accordance with guidance issued by the funding bodies.

Potteries Educational Trust
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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

21. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 September 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2025 £
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds	1,401,465	541,251	(401,262)	(37,755)	-	1,503,699
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	(214,147)	10,751,913	(10,647,413)	244,439	-	134,792
Sixth Form Funding	746,718	10,296,333	(9,788,300)	(562,464)	-	692,287
Pupil Premium	-	363,402	(363,402)	-	-	-
Universal infant free school meals	-	37,716	(37,716)	-	-	-
Rates Reclaim	-	34,080	(34,080)	-	-	-
Teachers Pay Grant	-	235,719	(235,719)	-	-	-
Teachers Pension Grant	-	805,539	(805,539)	-	-	-
Other DfE Grants	-	2,040,675	(2,040,675)	-	-	-
Other Government Grant	-	912,952	(912,952)	-	-	-
Other Income/Donatio ns	-	1,380,890	(1,380,890)	-	-	-
Enhanced Pension Provision	(162,105)	-	(1,665)	-	-	(163,770)
Pension reserve	-	228,000	268,000	-	(496,000)	-
	370,466	27,087,219	(25,980,351)	(318,025)	(496,000)	663,309

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

21. Statement of funds (continued)

Restricted fixed
asset funds

DfE Grants	5,945,257	(36,435)	(753,859)	3,308,122	-	8,463,085
Transferred on conversion	48,458,866	-	(783,112)	(2,952,342)	-	44,723,412
	<u>54,404,123</u>	<u>(36,435)</u>	<u>(1,536,971)</u>	<u>355,780</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>53,186,497</u>
Total Restricted funds	<u>54,774,589</u>	<u>27,050,784</u>	<u>(27,517,322)</u>	<u>37,755</u>	<u>(496,000)</u>	<u>53,849,806</u>
Total funds	<u><u>56,176,054</u></u>	<u><u>27,592,035</u></u>	<u><u>(27,918,584)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>(496,000)</u></u>	<u><u>55,353,505</u></u>

21. **Statement of funds (continued)**

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

Unrestricted General Funds

This fund represents those resources which may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objects of the Trust at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted General Funds

This fund represents grants received for the Trust's operational activities and development.

Pension Reserve

This fund represents the Trust's share of the pension liability arising on the LGPS pension fund.

Restricted Fixed Asset Fund

This fund relates to grant funding received by the DfE to carry out works of a capital nature and also the donation of leasehold land, buildings and playing fields from the local authority on a 125 year lease and a small amount of capital expenditure from GAG and other sources of income.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG it could carry forward at 31 August 2025.

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For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

21. Statement of funds (continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds - all funds	1,519,444	383,849	(247,984)	(253,844)	-	1,401,465
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	173,461	10,327,770	(10,343,122)	(372,256)	-	(214,147)
Sixth Form Funding	541,851	10,466,377	(10,313,790)	52,280	-	746,718
Pupil Premium	-	372,974	(372,974)	-	-	-
Universal infant free school meals	-	50,100	(50,100)	-	-	-
Rates Reclaim	-	84,375	(84,375)	-	-	-
Teachers Pay Grant	-	99,725	(99,725)	-	-	-
Teachers Pension Grant	-	553,746	(553,746)	-	-	-
Other DfE Grants	-	1,572,825	(1,572,825)	-	-	-
Other Government Grant	-	832,713	(832,713)	-	-	-
Covid Recovery	-	37,111	(37,111)	-	-	-
Covid Tuition Fund	-	137,269	(137,269)	-	-	-
Other Income/Donatio ns	-	2,142,774	(2,142,774)	-	-	-
Enhanced Pension reserve	(162,436)	-	331	-	-	(162,105)
Pension reserve	(359,000)	135,000	255,000	-	(31,000)	-

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21. Statement of funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers In/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
	193,876	26,812,759	(26,285,193)	(319,976)	(31,000)	370,466
Restricted fixed asset funds						
DfE Grants	6,420,359	57,968	(1,106,890)	573,820	-	5,945,257
Transferred on conversion	48,871,480	-	(412,614)	-	-	48,458,866
	55,291,839	57,968	(1,519,504)	573,820	-	54,404,123
Total Restricted funds	55,485,715	26,870,727	(27,804,697)	253,844	(31,000)	54,774,589
Total funds	57,005,159	27,254,576	(28,052,681)	-	(31,000)	56,176,054

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

21. Statement of funds (continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2025 were allocated as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
City of Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College	1,359,070	1,372,454
Biddulph High School	(468,652)	(487,251)
Moorside High School	175,160	50,298
Werrington Primary School	802,272	632,675
Central	299,158	203,755
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve	2,167,008	1,771,931
Restricted fixed asset fund	53,186,497	54,404,123
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	55,353,505	56,176,054
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The following academy is carrying a net deficit on its portion of the funds as follows:

	Deficit £
Biddulph High School	(468,652)
	<hr/>

The Trust is taking the following action to return the academy to surplus:

The Trust Central Services team continues to work in conjunction with leaders from Biddulph High School on a seven-year financial recovery plan through to the 2030-31 year when it is expected the school will have returned to a cumulative surplus position. This also takes into consideration the revisions needed for the high inflationary factors linked to staff pay, energy costs and other non-staffing expenditure areas. All parties continue to be fully invested in the recovery process.

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

21. Statement of funds (continued)

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
City of Stoke-on- Trent Sixth Form College	7,422,563	1,347,028	39,439	2,252,035	11,061,065	10,935,806
Biddulph High School	4,196,413	835,636	53,219	795,661	5,880,929	5,749,475
Moorside High School	3,862,884	721,563	48,806	1,134,076	5,767,329	5,628,636
Werrington Primary School	1,908,441	226,383	25,694	467,287	2,627,805	2,380,906
Central	489,095	394,328	250	428,812	1,312,485	2,093,353
Trust	17,879,396	3,524,938	167,408	5,077,871	26,649,613	26,788,176

Unallocated amounts of £268,000 (2024: £255,000) relates to LGPS pension movements.

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Notes to the Financial Statements
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22. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	53,084,797	53,084,797
Current assets	1,503,699	2,899,972	101,700	4,505,371
Creditors due within one year	-	(1,916,816)	-	(1,916,816)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	(156,077)	-	(156,077)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(163,770)	-	(163,770)
Total	1,503,699	663,309	53,186,497	55,353,505

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	54,318,876	54,318,876
Current assets	1,570,344	2,736,542	85,247	4,392,133
Creditors due within one year	(46,326)	(2,133,685)	-	(2,180,011)
Creditors due in more than one year	(122,553)	(70,286)	-	(192,839)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(162,105)	-	(162,105)
Total	1,401,465	370,466	54,404,123	56,176,054

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

23. Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Net expenditure for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	(326,549)	(798,105)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	1,536,969	1,519,111
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	36,435	(57,968)
Interest receivable	(86,750)	(72,307)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	(268,000)	(255,000)
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	(228,000)	(135,000)
Decrease in stocks	9,817	16,146
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	155,578	(108,069)
Decrease in creditors	(392,183)	(767,242)
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	1,665	(331)
Loss on Disposal	-	542
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	438,982	(658,223)

24. Cash flows from financing activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Cash inflows from new borrowing	-	136,170
Repayments of borrowing	(37,774)	(27,205)
Net cash (used in)/provided by financing activities	(37,774)	108,965

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

	2025 £	2024 £
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	86,750	72,307
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(302,890)	(1,007,947)
Purchase of investments	(70,655)	(162,841)
Capital grants from DfE Group	120,995	479,844
Net cash used in investing activities	(165,800)	(618,637)

26. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash in hand and at bank	1,529,636	1,294,228
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,529,636	1,294,228

27. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2024 £	Cash flows £	Other non- cash changes £	At 31 August 2025 £
Cash at bank and in hand	1,294,228	235,408	-	1,529,636
Debt due within 1 year	(28,835)	37,774	(36,762)	(27,823)
Debt due after 1 year	(192,839)	-	36,762	(156,077)
	1,072,554	273,182	-	1,345,736

28. Pension commitments

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

Contributions amounting to £440,086 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2025 (2024 - £423,249) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

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

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

28. Pension commitments (continued)

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £2,956,481 (2024 - £2,521,386).

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

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

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 £1,376,000 (2024 - £1,547,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £1,099,000 (2024 - £1,248,000) and employees' contributions totalled £277,000 (2024 - £299,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 26.2 per cent for employers and 5.5-12.5 per cent for employees.

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

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2025	2024
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.2	3.15
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.7	2.65
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	6.05	5
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.7	2.65

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

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28. Pension commitments (continued)

	2025	2024
	Years	Years
Retiring today		
Males	18.5-21.6	18.3-21.4
Females	23.7-24.2	23.6-24.2
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	19.9-20.9	19.7-20.6
Females	24.7-25.2	24.7-25.2

Sensitivity analysis

	2025	2024
	£000	£000
Discount rate +0.1%	(334,000)	(402,000)
Discount rate -0.1%	334,000	402,000
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	620,000	708,000
Mortality assumption - 1 year decrease	(620,000)	(708,000)
CPI rate +0.1%	328,000	392,000
CPI rate -0.1%	(328,000)	(392,000)
Salary increase +0.1%	16,000	19,000
Salary increase -0.1%	(16,000)	(19,000)

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28. Pension commitments (continued)

Share of scheme assets

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

	At 31 August 2025 £	At 31 August 2024 £
Equities	15,675,000	14,164,000
Corporate bonds	6,613,000	5,975,000
Property	1,714,000	1,549,000
Cash and other liquid assets	490,000	443,000
Total market value of assets	24,492,000	22,131,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £1,616,000 (2024 - £2,601,000).

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

	2025 £	2024 £
Current service cost	(831,000)	(993,000)
Interest income	1,127,000	997,000
Interest cost	(899,000)	(862,000)
Total amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities	(603,000)	(858,000)

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

	2025 £	2024 £
At 1 September	17,694,000	16,213,000
Current service cost	831,000	993,000
Interest cost	899,000	862,000
Employee contributions	277,000	299,000
Actuarial gains	(3,696,000)	(131,000)
Benefits paid	(512,000)	(542,000)
At 31 August	15,493,000	17,694,000

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

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

	2025 £	2024 £
At 1 September	17,694,000	15,854,000
Interest income	1,127,000	997,000
Actuarial gains	370,000	1,458,000
Employer contributions	1,099,000	1,248,000
Employee contributions	277,000	299,000
Benefits paid	(512,000)	(542,000)
Pension surplus not recognised	(4,562,000)	(1,620,000)
At 31 August	15,493,000	17,694,000

As at 31 August 2025, the Trust had derecognised pension assets totalling £8,999,000.

29. Operating lease commitments

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

	2025 £	As restated 2024 £
Not later than 1 year	88,820	89,546
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	44,707	131,442
	133,527	220,988

The prior year has been restated to reflect an operating lease that was signed prior to 31 August 2024 but payments did not commence until 1 September 2024.

30. 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.

31. Related party transactions

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

No related party transactions, other than trustees' remuneration and expenses are already disclosed in note 12, have occurred during the year.

32. Agency arrangements

The Trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for DfE. In the financial year ended 31 August 2025 the trust received £422,524 and disbursed £409,852 from the fund. An amount of £122,494 is included in other creditors relating to undistributed funds that is being carried forward for distribution in 2025/26.

