

ODYSSEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

**ODYSSEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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ODYSSEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST
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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members	Ms C Bradley Mr R Hughes Ms N A Shipman
Trustees	Miss K A Smith, Chair of Trustees Mr A Mistry Ms N A Shipman Miss A Williams, Chief Executive
Company Registered Number	08612100
Company name	Odyssey Educational Trust
Principal and registered office	Humberstone Junior Academy Main Street Humberstone Leicestershire LE5 1AE
Senior management team	Miss A Williams, Chief Executive Mrs C Hurley, Head of Infants
Independent auditor	Cooper Parry Group Limited Statutory Auditor Cubo Birmingham 4 th Floor Two Chamberlain Square Birmingham B3 3AX
Bankers	Co-operative Bank PO Box 101 1 Balloon Street Manchester M60 4EP
Solicitors	Langleys Olympic House Doddington Road Lincoln LN6 3SE

**ODYSSEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

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

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution

The Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the Trust.

The Trustees are also the Directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company operates Odyssey Educational Trust.

Details of the Trustees who served throughout the year and to the date the approval of this report and the financial statements are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

Members' Liability

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

Trustees' Indemnities

The Academy Trust has opted into the Department of Education's Risk Protection Arrangement ('RPA'), an alternative to insurance where UK government funds cover losses that arise. The scheme protects Members, Trustees and the Local Governing Body from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy Trust business. The scheme provides cover up to £10,000,000.

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

The appointment and recruitment of Trustees is laid out in articles 50, 50b & 53 in the Articles of Association. The appointment of up to 9 Trustees is the responsibility of the Members. With reference to article 53, parent governors shall be elected by parents of registered pupils of the Academy.

Trustees are appointed for a 4 year period, except that this time limit does not apply to the Chief Executive Officer where they have agreed to be appointed as a Trustee or where they are automatically appointed as a Trustee under the Articles of Association. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Trustee, any Trustee can be reappointed or re-elected.

When appointing new Trustees, the Board of Trustees will give consideration to the skills and experience mix of existing Trustees in order to ensure the Board of Trustees has the necessary skills to contribute fully to the Academy Trust's ongoing development.

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Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees

Induction for new Trustees is tailored according to their experience and background. New Trustees requiring guidance on the roles of Trustees are provided with this by external training or through internal meetings and discussion with staff and other Trustees. All Trustees are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts etc that they will need to undertake their role as Trustees.

Other training for Trustees is provided as required through external providers.

Organisational Structure

The Trustees are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual development plan and budget, approving the annual statutory accounts, monitoring the Academy Trust by the use of budgets and other data, and making the major decisions about the direction of the Academy Trust, capital expenditure and staff appointments.

The Board of Trustees normally meet six times each year. The Board of Trustees establishes an overall framework for the governance of the Academy Trust and determines membership, terms of reference and procedures of Committees of the Board of Trustees and other groups. It receives reports including policies from its Committees for ratification. It monitors the activities of the Committees through the minutes of their meetings and through direct reporting from the elected Chair of each Committee. The Board of Trustees may from time to time establish working groups to perform specific tasks over a limited timescale.

There are two Committees of the Board of Trustees as follows:

- Finance and Audit Committee
- Pay Committee

Each Committee has its own terms of reference detailing the responsibilities discharged to it.

The following decisions are reserved to the full Board of Trustees:

- to consider any proposals for changes to the status or constitution of the Academy Trust and its committee structure;
- to appoint or remove the Chair and / or Vice Chair; and
- to appoint and / or consider the performance management of the Executive Headteacher.

The Trustees have devolved the day-to-day management of the Academy Trust to the Senior Leadership Team ('SLT'), which is led by the Chief Executive. The SLT comprises the Chief Executive and the individual Academies' Head of School. The Chief Executive is the Academy Trust's Accounting Officer and has overall responsibility for the day-to-day financial management of the Academy Trust. The SLT implements the policies laid down by the Trustees and reports back to them on these and the Academy Trust's overall performance.

Arrangements for Setting Pay and Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

The Trustees consider the Board of Trustees and the senior management team to comprise the key management personnel of the Academy Trust in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the Academy Trust on a day-to-day basis.

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All Trustees give of their time freely and no Trustee received any remuneration in the current or prior year, other than those Trustees who are also employees of the Academy Trust. Details of Trustees' remuneration and expenses are disclosed in note 13 of the financial statements respectively.

The pay of the senior management team is reviewed annually by the Pay Committee in line with the Academy Trust's pay and remuneration policy and by reference to published pay scales for both teaching and administrative support staff and by reference to available information on similar roles in other similar sized Academy Trusts.

Trade Union Facility Time

The Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2017 require specified public-sector employers to report annually on paid time off provided to trade union representatives for trade union duties and activities. No employees were relevant Trade Union officials during the relevant period for the 2024/25 year and nor was any paid time off for Trade Union activities provided by any school within the Trust during the year.

Related Parties and Other Connected Charities and Organisations

There are no related parties or connected organisations which either control or significantly influence the decisions and operations of the Academy Trust.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objects and Aims

As indicated in paragraph 4 of the Articles of Association, the object of the Academy Trust is to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing the offering of a broad and balanced curriculum. The principal activity of the Trust is to provide free education to young people of all abilities who live mainly in the local community, based on an inclusive, broad and balanced curriculum.

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

The key priorities and activities of the Academy Trust for the year, which are contained in the Academy Development Plan were as follows:

- 1) To develop **strategic leadership expertise which provides Trust wide capacity**
- 2) To provide **CPL which addresses the bespoke needs of teams and individuals** and contributes to a culture of professional learning within the Trust
- 3) To continue to embed a **highly ambitious and responsive, knowledge rich curriculum** which is at the heart of school culture
- 4) To continue to develop **highly effective and responsive teaching** in all year groups which consistently leads to excellence in pupil outcomes
- 5) To identify, address and meet the **needs of individuals and vulnerable groups of learners**

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Public Benefit

The Academy Trust aims to advance, for the public benefit, education in Leicester and the surrounding area, offering a broad curriculum and an excellent education environment for its pupils. The Academy Trust also allows use of its facilities for recreational and other leisure time occupation for the community at large in the interests of social welfare and with the interest of improving the life of that community. The details of the particular activities of the Academy Trust during the year and how these have provided public benefit are detailed in the Achievements and Performance section below.

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission general guidance on public benefit in exercising their powers or duties. They have referred to this guidance when reviewing the Academy Trust's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities.

STRATEGIC REPORT

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Review of Achievements and Performance

The Academy Trust continues to evolve and to adapt to the ever-changing educational environment. The Academy Trust is committed to continual improvement, which is achieved in a number of ways, including improvement planning, review meetings, continual professional development, lesson observations, performance management, self evaluation, data analysis and action planning. The particular achievements and performance of the Academy Trust during the year ended 31 August 2025 were as follows:

Odyssey Educational Trust is currently made up of Humberstone Infant Academy and Humberstone Junior Academy. Humberstone Junior Academy became the sponsor for Humberstone Infant Academy upon its academy conversion on April 1st 2016. Humberstone Infant Academy was previously known as Humberstone Infant School and was judged to "require improvement" prior to joining the Trust. Since then the school has entered into a rapid period of improvement in pupil outcomes, the quality of teaching and learning and also within the physical learning environment. The Infant Academy was judged to be Good by OFSTED in March 2019 for the first time in 10 years and Good (improving) at its most recent short inspection in June 2024. Humberstone Junior Academy received a full OFSTED inspection in November 2023 with the outcome being an Outstanding Judgement.

Humberstone Infant Academy has continued to receive support from the Junior Academy for teaching, learning and leadership and continues to develop its own capacity. The Infant school has made considerable use of the expertise from the Junior school including the movement of key staff from the Junior to the Infant school since joining the Trust.

The Trust is committed to maintaining and continuing to enhance the school estate and to provide a learning environment that is safe, secure, inviting and stimulating. Considerable capital investment has been made in the physical learning environment, resulting in a complete refurbishment of all classes and the Nursery area. In 2022/23 the Trust utilised a large amount of funds from reserves to upgrade the Infant Academy central "quad area" so that it provides a modern, safe, bright and fit for purpose outdoor learning space for children in the early years. The Trust continues to plan and invest in condition improvement projects, during the last twelve months this has included the Infant Windows, Junior Staff Room, and Infants Staff Kitchen, Junior Year 3/4 Boys Toilets, Infant Chimney, and fencing. The Junior Windows were completed in February 2025 and the Junior Hall redecoration was completed Spring 2025. Year 1 classrooms were all refurbished during summer 2025, completing the final phase of classroom upgrades.

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Review of Achievements and Performance (continued)

Repairs to the heating pipe leak in the Year 6 corridor were also completed over the summer, following investigations that required excavation of the corridor floor; total costs were within the estimated £6,000–£8,000 range, and contingency funds were used effectively to address additional findings once work commenced. In response to the Health and Safety audit, additional boys' toilets for Years 5 and 6 were installed during summer 2025.

The senior leadership teams for both Academies continue to work as one, led by the Chief Executive Officer with further support provided by the wider leadership team. Resources such as the SENCO, Assistant Heads, the Pastoral Team and Peripatetic Teachers are allocated effectively across the Trust to support the development of both schools. Central functions such as the management of services and finance are provided centrally for both schools, providing a streamlined and consistent service and greater cost effectiveness.

The % of children achieving age related expectations at the end of EYFS and Key stage 1 has improved significantly since the Infant Academy was sponsored in 2016.

The schools have worked hard to implement a recovery plan post pandemic and as a result, pupil results are now back to pre-pandemic levels and in many cases have improved. Pupil outcomes remain consistently and often significantly above national averages for all measures at the end of EYFS, PSC, MTC and at the end of key stage 2.

Humberstone Infant Academy

Pupils achieving a Good Level of Development at the end of EYFS

GLD Summary	Humberstone	Leicester LA	National	Difference
	GLD%	GLD%	GLD%	GLD%
2019	76%	68%	72%	+4%
2022	72%	60%	65%	+7%
2023	76%	64%	67%	+9%
2024	82%	63%	68%	+14%
2025	83%	65%	68% (2024)	+15%

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Review of Achievements and Performance (continued)

% of children passing Y1 Phonics Screen

Subject	Met standard in Y1		Met standard in Y2 (cumulative)	
	Sch	Nat	Sch	Nat
2022	78%	75%	87%	87%
2023	81%	79%	92%	%
2024	90%	80%	94%	%
2025	95%	80% (2024)	93%	%

Humberstone Junior Academy

The % of children achieving age related expectations at the end of key stage 2 continues to be above national averages for 2025.

The % of pupils achieving age related expectations at the end of key stage 2

KS2 Data Summary 2025	Humberstone		Leicester LA		National 2025		Difference To National	
	EXS+	GDS	EXS+	GDS	EXS+	GDS (2024)	EXS+	GDS
Reading	88%	37%	71%	30%	75%	28%	+13%	+9%
Writing	90%	30%	68%	7%	72%	13%	+18%	+17%
Maths	90%	42%	74%	27%	73%	24%	+17%	+17%
GPS	88%	50%	73%	33%	73%	32%	+15%	+18%
Combined RWM	81%	20%	59%	5%	62%	8%	+19%	+12%

Humberstone Junior Academy: Strengths and Areas for Development

Strengths:

- Humberstone Junior Academy has been judged to be Outstanding at two consecutive full inspections - last full inspection November 2023
- End of key stage outcomes consistently and significantly above national averages over time at both expected and greater depth and above local authority averages
- Strong teaching and leadership with excellent capacity for school to school support
- Excellent examples of pastoral support and effective personal development leading to no examples of permanent exclusion or suspension in the last 3 years
- Proven track record of school to school support, including Leicester City leaders of Closing the Gap English projects and a National Support School

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
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Review of Achievements and Performance (continued)

Areas for Development

- Continue to address the needs of vulnerable groups of learners
- Continue to reduce the number of pupils (particularly disadvantaged) who are persistently absent
- Develop future leadership capacity through succession planning

Humberstone Infant Academy: Strengths and Areas for Development

Strengths:

- Phonics screen test outcomes have consistently been above national averages for 3 years and significantly above national averages by 15% in 2025
- EYFS outcomes are consistently above national averages for the last 3 years and rising over time
- Consistently good teaching capacity across all areas of the school
- Consistently effective subject leadership with some real strengths developing
- Effective pastoral support and personal development opportunities for all pupils

Areas for Development

- Continue to reduce the % of pupils who are absent and persistently absent, particularly disadvantaged pupils
- Continue to raise the level of pupil's basic skills in the early years and year 1 as the foundations for later achievement
- Continue to support the increasingly high levels of SEND in school through effective SENDCO leadership across the Trust

Key Performance Indicators

The Academy Trust uses a number of benchmarks or performance indicators to evaluate its financial performance and drive budgetary control and monitoring.

A key financial performance indicator for the Trust is the level of reserves held at the balance sheet date and, in particular, the amount of unrestricted reserves plus restricted income reserves at year end. At 31 August 2025, the balance of the unrestricted and restricted income reserves was £439,285 (2024: £256,621), which is after transfers of £26,874 to the restricted fixed asset fund to fund capital expenditure during the year. Further details on the level of reserves held by the Academy Trust are set out in the Reserves Policy section below.

As the majority of the Academy Trust's funding is based on pupil numbers, pupil numbers are also a key performance indicator. The pupil numbers (Reception to Year 6) at the Autumn 2024 census were 603, which is a decrease of 2% from the Autumn 2023 census. This does not include Nursery children, of which there were 24 on roll.

Staffing costs are another key performance indicator for the Academy Trust and the percentage of total staff costs to total educational grant funding (being GAG funding plus other operating educational grants from the DFE and / or Local Authority) for the year was 76.6% (2024: 76.9%), while the percentage of staff costs to total costs (excluding depreciation and LGPS FRS102 pension cost charges) was 79.2% (2024: 77.3%).

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Going Concern

The recent increases in staff pay awards, continuing inflationary increases in many other areas of the Trust's operations and the fall in pupil numbers at some of the Trusts schools are predicted to continue to have significant impact on future financial performance and position of the Trust. Whilst the Trust's budget forecasts looking forward indicate the Trust has sufficient resources to pay its debts as and when they fall due, the Trust's senior management team continue to review all areas of funding and expenditure and to identify and implement, in consultation and agreement with the Trustees, actions to offset the impact of these unfunded cost increases and reduced funding going forward.

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

FINANCIAL REVIEW

For the year ended 31 August 2025, the Academy Trust's total operating income (excluding capital grants and LGPS FRS102 net interest income) was £3,929,746 (2024: £3,616,842) while the total expenditure (excluding depreciation and LGPS FRS102 pension cost charges) was £3,720,208 (2024: £3,511,804), resulting in a net operating surplus for the year of £209,538 (2024: £105,038).

After transfers from reserves to fund capital expenditure in the year, the balance of reserves at 31 August 2025, excluding the restricted fixed asset funds and LGPS reserve fund was £439,285.

The net book value of fixed assets at 31 August 2025 were £5,724,550. The fixed assets held by the Academy Trust are used exclusively for providing education and associated support services to the pupils of the Academy Trust.

Included within the Academy's balance sheet at year end is a defined benefit pension scheme balance of £Nil (2024: £Nil), which arises from the Local Government Pension Scheme ("LGPS") that is attributable to the Academies in the Trust. Whilst the actuary's FRS102 valuation report at 31 August 2025 indicated an asset in the scheme of £1,763,000, there is significant judgment needed by the Trustees in assessing whether the surplus should be recognised as a pension asset or whether the surplus should be restricted to some level or in total. In line with the asset ceiling review and calculations provided by the actuary, the pension asset has been reduced to a £Nil balance in the financial statements. Further details regarding the LGPS balance at 31 August 2025 and the basis on which this has been recognised in the financial statements are set out in note 24 to the financial statements.

The key financial policies reviewed and adopted during the period included the Financial Procedures Policy and Manual, which lays out the framework for the Academy Trust's financial management, including financial responsibilities of the Board of Trustees, Executive Headteacher, managers, budget holders and other staff. The other financial policies reviewed and adopted during the period included the Scheme of Delegation, the Investment and Reserves Policy and the Risk Policy and Register.

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Reserves Policy

The Trustees review the reserve levels of the Academy Trust annually. This review encompasses the nature of the income and expenditure streams, in restricted income streams, the need to match income with future commitments and the nature of reserves. The Trustees also take into consideration the future plans of the Academy Trust, the uncertainty over future funding and staff pay rises and other key risks identified during the risk review.

The Trustees have determined that the appropriate level of operating reserves should be approximately £100,000. Operating reserves are considered to be those income reserves that are available to be used by the Academy Trust for its normal operating activities and is generally represented by unrestricted income funds (excluding any designated funds) and restricted income funds that are considered to be available for the general purposes of the Academy Trust (such as GAG funds).

The reason for this reserves policy is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipts of grant funding, to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance, long term staff absences etc and to provide sufficient financial resilience to offset continued funding pressures in the sector.

The Academy Trust's current level of operating reserves at 31 August 2025 is £439,285 (2024: £256,621), which is made up of restricted income funds of £402,010 (2024: £224,973) and unrestricted funds of 37,275 (2024: £31,648). Although the current level of operating reserves is above the target level identified above, the Trustees expectation is that these reserves will be utilised over the next few years to fund the ongoing development of the Academy Trust, including the need to fund ongoing pay increases and other cost increases across the sector and the need to fund ongoing capital projects and developments.

The value of the restricted fixed asset fund at 31 August 2025 is £5,724,550 (2024: £5,781,039), which is represented by the fixed assets that are used exclusively for providing education and associated support services to the pupils of the Trust. These funds can only be realised by disposing of the associated tangible fixed assets.

The pension reserve fund has a balance at 31 August 2025 of £Nil, which represents the balance in the LGPS at the balance sheet date. As detailed earlier in this report, whilst the actuary's FRS102 valuation report at 31 August 2025 indicated an asset in the scheme of £1,763,000, the pension asset has been reduced to a £Nil balance in the financial statements. The effect of this asset position is that Academy Trust may be required to make reduced pension contributions over the next 3 year funding period with the effect being that the surplus is ultimately repaid over the next 20 year period. These reduced pension contributions will continue to be funded from the Trust's annual recurring income. In the event that the LGPS moves in an overall deficit position in the future, the Trustees have noted however that the Government has provided a guarantee that in the event of an Academy closure, any outstanding LGPS liabilities would be met by the Department for Education.

Investment Policy

The Academy Trust maintains funds in a current account to provide for day-to-day operation. Cash flow projections are reviewed monthly in order to ensure adequate cash balances are maintained in the current account to cover day-to-day working capital requirements. To optimise returns, the Trust's investment policy allows for surplus funds to be invested in low-risk investments.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
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Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed, especially in the operational areas, such as teaching, health & safety, safeguarding and school trips, and in relation to the control of finances and strategic development of the Trust. They have introduced systems, including operational procedures and internal financial controls in order to minimise risk and have agreed a Risk Management Strategy and Risk Management Plan, which incorporates a Risk Register. The Risk Management Plan is constantly reviewed in light of any new information and formally reviewed annually.

The principal risks and uncertainties facing the Academy Trust are as follows:

Educational

The continuing success of the Academy Trust is dependent on continuing to attract pupil applicants in sufficient numbers by maintaining the highest educational standards across all key stages. To mitigate this risk, the Trustees ensure that pupil success and achievement are closely monitored and reviewed, with corrective actions embedded at an early stage, and that relationships and partnerships with parents, the local community and other organisations and groups are maintained and are effective in producing a cohesive and supportive community.

Safeguarding and child protection

The Trustees continue to ensure that the highest standards are maintained in the areas of selection and monitoring of staff, the operation of child protection policies and procedures, health & safety, pastoral care and discipline. Trustees regularly monitor safeguarding processes on site and meet with DSL's and other relevant staff. The SCR is audited once a term by either a trustee or by the CEO. The CEO reports on safeguarding and pastoral information each term to the Board of Trustees who continue to provide challenge where necessary. Safeguarding was judged to be effective by Ofsted in both schools in the 2023-24 school year.

Financial

The Academy Trust has considerable reliance on continued Government funding through the DFE and Local Authority. In the year, approximately 98% of the Academy Trust's operating income was ultimately Government funded. Whilst this level is expected to continue, there is 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, particularly in light of continuing cost pressures facing the sector.

Continuing increases in employment costs, including unfunded pay increases and pension costs associated with both the Teachers' Pension Scheme and the Local Government Pension Scheme, and premises costs, including the significant impact of energy cost increases, will also continue to place significant pressure on the Academy Trust's financial position and its ability to deliver balance budgets in the future.

The Trustees examine the financial health of the Academy Trust formally every half term, reviewing performance against budgets and overall expenditure by means of regular update reports at all full Trustees and Finance and Audit Committee meetings.

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Principal Risks and Uncertainties (continued)

At the balance sheet date, the Academy Trust had no significant liabilities arising from trade creditors or debtors where there would be a significant effect on the Academy Trust's liquidity.

As detailed earlier in this report, the actuary's FRS102 valuation report at 31 August 2025 indicated an asset in the scheme of £1,763,000. The Trustees recognise that this position will change from year to year depending on the various assumptions adopted by the actuaries when completing the FRS102 valuation reports. As such, the LGPS could still present a significant potential liability to the Academy Trust in the future. However, as the Trustees consider the Academy Trust is able to meet its known annual contribution commitments for the foreseeable future, the risk from this potential future liability is considered to be very low. The Trustees have noted however that the Government has provided a guarantee that in the event of an Academy closure, any outstanding LGPS liabilities would be met by the Department for Education.

Estates

Trustees look to ensure that the importance of health and safety of students, staff and visitors is considered a top priority in its schools. Health and safety policies and procedures are in place, with independent reviews and support from specialist external advisors, and all staff are expected to complete online health and safety training annually.

Financial spending decisions are made by the Trust, for instance in investment in the school property, in order to ensure the site condition is safe and fit for purpose.

A Condition Survey was commissioned for both schools and completed in April 2023. The priorities and costs have been reviewed and these are used to help guide future maintenance and capital spend planning.

The Trust ensures health and safety is always a primary factor in its decision making, including when determining the priority areas for which it wishes to submit bids to the DfE in respect of Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) grant funding.

Staffing

The success of the Academy Trust is reliant on the quality of its staff so the Trustees monitor and review policies and procedures to ensure continued development and training of staff as well as ensuring there is clear succession planning.

The recruitment of suitably qualified and experienced staff has been a particular challenge this year with vacancies unfilled and agency staff employed as interim measures. Whilst agency staff have been of excellent quality, the costs are high, these costs have been monitored and managed to minimise the impact on the Trust's financial results and position at the period end. Recruitment and succession planning is integral to Trust's planning and the Chief Executive continues to take a personal lead in the recruitment and selection of all staff and the Trust has continued to undertake permanent recruitment to all vacant posts during the period.

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Principal Risks and Uncertainties (continued)

Failures in governance and / or management

The risk in this area arises from the potential failure to effectively manage the Academy Trust's finances, internal controls, compliance with regulations and legislation, statutory returns etc. The Trustees continue to review and ensure appropriate measures are in place to mitigate these risks, which includes those relating to fraud and mismanagement of funds.

Fraud and mismanagement of funds

The Academy Trust has engaged PKF Smith Cooper as internal auditor to perform a program of work aimed at checking and reviewing the financial systems and records as required by the Academies Financial Handbook. All finance staff receive training to keep them up to date with financial practice requirements and to develop their skills in this area.

Cybercrime

The Academy Trust Handbook 2024 made it clear that Academy Trusts must be aware of the risk of cybercrime and put in place proportionate controls and take appropriate action where a cyber security incident has occurred. The Trust has carried out its own internal audit against the DFE's cybercrime standards and addressed any areas of need. All staff take part in yearly cybercrime training and all Trustees are appropriately briefed and trained in this area.

Fundraising

The Academy Trust has not undertaken any material fundraising activities during the year ended 31 August 2025.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

Humberstone Junior Academy is the lead school within Odyssey Educational Trust and was awarded an Outstanding Ofsted rating in June 2016 and again at their last full inspection in November 2023. Humberstone Junior Academy was awarded sponsor status in 2015 and became the academy sponsor for Humberstone Infant Academy in April 2016.

Humberstone Junior Academy continues to provide an outstanding quality of education and curriculum and any gaps in learning as result of the pandemic has been minimised due to the strong focus on high quality teaching and learning, developing a culture of excellence and a strong team identity. The academy has significant first-hand experience of school improvement and effective models and approaches, which it has now successfully applied to a considerable number of support and partnership schools. The school continues to provide NLE support, consultancy and CPD for external colleagues in a range of teaching and learning and leadership issues.

As a Multi-Academy Trust, it is intended that the MAT will continue to maximise economies of scale with regard to purchasing and provision of key roles within the organisation such as leadership, business management, SEND provision and specialised pupil services. The Academy Trust is actively investigating the possibility of sponsoring further primary academies in the future when there is a suitable opportunity to do so. It is also intended that current expertise around curriculum development and improving pupil outcomes should continue to be utilised across the Trust in order to maintain and raise standards for all pupils.

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS (continued)

Useful lessons have been learned about the benefits of working remotely and it is likely that these can be utilised when considering how to add further schools to the Trust. Similarly, the development work carried out for other organisations and trusts by Trust staff can be usefully achieved to some extent by the utilisation of electronic meetings. The Trust Board has worked effectively during the pandemic by remote meetings, and it has allowed all trustees to play a full part in the development and monitoring of actions taken by the executive team. The Trust currently maintains a program of virtual and face to face meetings to a very high standard.

FUNDS HELD AS CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF OTHERS

The Academy Trust and its Trustees do not act as Custodian Trustees of any other charity.

DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

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

AUDITORS

The auditors, Cooper Parry Group Limited, have indicated their willingness to continue in office and will be proposed for reappointment in accordance with section 485 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees' Report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company Directors, on 18 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



**Miss K A Smith
Chair of Trustees**

ODYSSEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Scope of Responsibility

As Trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Odyssey 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 Academy Trust Governance Guide.

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Odyssey 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 information that is described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met 5 times during the year ended 31 August 2025. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Miss K A Smith, Chair of Trustees	3	5
Mr A Mistry	5	5
Ms N A Shipman	5	5
Miss A Williams	5	5

During the year ended 31 August 2025, the Board of Trustees reviewed the Academy Trust's governance structure in order to evaluate its impact and effectiveness, and this included undertaking a skills audit.

The Board, and each sub-Committee, receive comprehensive information from the Trust's leadership team prior to each meeting, including key performance indicator monitoring. This enables the Trustees to remain fully appraised of the performance of the Trust in all areas of operations and to 'drill down' into areas of particular interest so that meetings are focused at all times.

The responsibilities of and work undertaken by the sub-Committees are detailed further below. The minutes of these sub-Committee meetings are provided to the full Board of Trustees and the Chairs of these sub-Committees report to each full Board of Trustee meeting on the key matters considered at their meetings and the impact for consideration by the full Board of Trustees.

Trustees have also taken a proactive role in linking with individual academies to develop greater knowledge of the impact of the Trust's strategic direction and work of the central team through informal engagement with school leaders, staff and the wider community.

A key focus of the Board of Trustees during the year was the development and execution of succession planning in order to secure future leadership capacity.

ODYSSEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Governance (continued)

In line with the Financial Procedures policy, all Members, Trustees, and Senior Management team are required to complete a declaration of any business or pecuniary interests on an annual basis or, in the case of individuals taking up these roles during the year, at the point of taking up their role. A register of interests is then maintained by the Academy Trust's Governance Clerk, which is reviewed at the start of each Board of Trustee meeting and also provided to Academy Trust's finance team for monitoring in relation to any transactions with any organisations in which interests have been declared. Any transactions with organisations in which any interests have been declared are reported to the Board of Trustees in advance of the transactions, so that formal approval can be provided by the Board where the transaction is considered appropriate and formal notification to the DFE can then be made, including where relevant, seeking pre-approval.

Conflicts of interest is also included in the Code of Conduct staff training sessions. All staff attend this training and are required to confirm that they have attended the training session and read the policy on an annual basis.

Finance and Audit Committee

The Finance and Audit Committee is a sub-Committee of the Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to provide oversight, guidance and assistance to the Board of Trustees on all matters related to finance, resources, premises and Health & Safety of the Academy Trust. This Committee also acts as the Academy Trust's Audit Committee, where its purpose is to maintain oversight of the Trust's governance, risk management, internal control and value for money framework.

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

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr A Mistry	4	4
Miss K A Smith	4	4
Miss A Williams	4	4

The key issues dealt with by the Finance Committee during the year was the review of the Academy Trust's 3-year financial forecasts and the actions required to address the impact of increased cost pressures expected over this forecast period.

The Committee was also responsible for the review of the reports received from PKF Smith Cooper in relation to the Trust's systems of internal control and the actions undertaken to address any control weaknesses identified, together with monitoring the implementation of actions identified from internal control reviews undertaken in previous years and also the recommendations included in the external auditors' management letters from the previous year.

**ODYSSEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

Review of Value for Money

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

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

The Accounting Officer for the Academy Trust has delivered value for money during the year by:

- providing a staffing structure which makes shared use of key staffing resources across the Trust based on flexible levels of need.
- Regular review of contracts with service providers to ensure they are fit for purpose and provide best value.
- Promoting fair competition through quotations and tenders in accordance with our financial policies, to ensure that goods and services are secured in the most economical way.
- Investing in the Trust's estate, including for example, the installation of replacement windows throughout the Trust and refurbishment of toilet facilities, staff spaces and classrooms.

The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

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

Capacity to Handle Risk

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period from 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

The Risk and Control Framework

The Academy Trust's system of internal control is based on a framework of regular management information and administrative procedures including the segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability.

**ODYSSEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

The Risk and Control Framework (continued)

In particular it includes:

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and regular financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Trustees;
- regular reviews by the Finance and Audit 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 PKF Smith Cooper Audit Limited. This option has been chosen as, given the current structure of the Academy Trust, the Board of Trustees believe this provides a robust and best value approach to providing assurance that the Academy Trust's financial and non-financial controls and risk management procedures are operating effectively. The internal auditor's role includes offering advice and insight to the Board of Trustees on how to address weaknesses in financial and non-financial controls as well as evaluating the suitability of, and level of compliance with, financial and non-financial controls. This includes assessing whether procedures are effective and efficient, and checking whether agreed controls and procedures have been followed. A focused review was undertaken during the year and the scope of work included a review of financial processes, controls and procedures in the following areas – purchasing, payroll, expense claims, bank, connected party transactions, financial reporting and control account reconciliations, compliance and the submission of ESFA returns.

On an annual basis, the internal auditor reports to the Board of Trustees, through the Finance and Audit Committee, on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities and prepares an annual 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.

The internal auditor has delivered their program of work during the year ended 31 August 2025 as planned and no significant internal control weaknesses were identified from the work completed.

Review of Effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, the Chief Executive has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year ended 31 August 2025 the review has been informed by:

- the work of the internal auditor;
- the work of the external auditor;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process, including the School Resource Management Self-Assessment Checklist;
- the work of the executive managers within the Academy Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework; and
- Correspondence from the DFE.

**ODYSSEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

Review of Effectiveness (continued)

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

Conclusion

Based on the advice of the Finance and Audit 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 Board of Trustees on 18 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



**Miss K A Smith
Chair of Trustees**



**Miss A Williams
Accounting Officer**

**ODYSSEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

As Accounting Officer of the Odyssey 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 Academy Trust's 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.



**Miss A Williams
Accounting Officer**

18 December 2025

ODYSSEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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 Annual Accounts Direction published by the Education Funding Agency, 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 judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- 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 that grants received from ESFA and the DfE have been applied for the purposes intended.

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 18 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Miss K A Smith
Chair of Trustees

ODYSSEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF
ODYSSEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Odyssey Educational Trust (the 'Academy Trust') for the year ended 31 August 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and 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 Academy Trust's affairs as at 31 August 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by the Department for Education.

Basis for opinion

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

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

ODYSSEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF
ODYSSEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST (CONTINUED)**

Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Trustees' Report, which includes the Strategic Report and the Directors' Report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and.
- the Strategic Report and the Directors' Report included within the Trustees' Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

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

ODYSSEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF
ODYSSEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST (CONTINUED)**

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

Our assessment focused on key laws and regulations the Academy Trust has to comply with and areas of the financial statements we assessed as being more susceptible to misstatement. These key laws and regulations included but were not limited to compliance with the Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011, the Academy Trust Handbook 2024, the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025, taxation legislation, data protection, anti-bribery and employment legislation.

We are not responsible for preventing irregularities, including fraud. Our approach to detecting irregularities, including fraud, included, but was not limited to, the following:

- obtaining an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the Academy Trust and how the Academy Trust is complying with that framework, including agreement of financial statement disclosures to underlying documentation and other evidence;
- obtaining an understanding of the Academy Trust's control environment and how the Academy Trust has applied relevant control procedures, through discussions with Trustees and other management and by reviewing the reports on the internal scrutiny work commissioned by the trust in relation to the year and by performing walkthrough testing over key areas;
- obtaining an understanding of the Academy Trust's risk assessment process, including the risk of fraud;
- reviewing meeting minutes of those charged with governance throughout the year; and
- performing audit testing to address the risk of management override of controls, including testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for bias.

Whilst considering how our audit work addressed the detection of irregularities, we also considered the likelihood of detection of fraud based on our approach. Irregularities arising from fraud are inherently more difficult to detect than those arising from error.

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.

ODYSSEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF
ODYSSEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST (CONTINUED)**

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

Use of our report

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

Signed by:

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Kevin Hodgetts (Senior statutory auditor)

for and on behalf of

Cooper Parry Group Limited

Statutory Auditor

Cubo Birmingham

4th Floor

Two Chamberlain Square

Birmingham

B3 3AX

19 December 2025

ODYSSEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO ODYSSEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 9 July 2021 and further to the requirements of the Department for Education (DfE) as included in the extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether anything has come to our attention that would suggest, in all material respects, the expenditure disbursed and income received by Odyssey Educational Trust during the year 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 have not been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to Odyssey 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 Odyssey 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 Odyssey 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 Odyssey Educational Trust's Accounting Officer and the Reporting Accountant

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of Odyssey Educational Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 31 July 2013 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2024, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts. 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 for the purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Approach

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw our conclusions included:

- Reviewing the internal control policies and procedures implemented by the Academy Trust and evaluating their design and effectiveness to understand how the Academy Trust has complied with the framework of authorities, including reviewing the reports on the internal scrutiny work commissioned by the Academy Trust in relation to the year;
- Reviewing the minutes of meetings of the Trustees, relevant sub-committees and other evidence made available to us, relevant to our consideration of regularity;

ODYSSEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST
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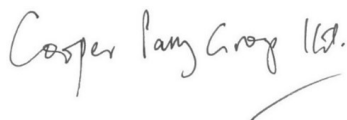
INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO ODYSSEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION (CONTINUED)

- Enquiries of the Accounting Officer, including reviewing the work undertaken by the Accounting Officer in relation to their Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance; and
- Detailed testing of the income and expenditure of the Academy Trust based on our assessment of the risk of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance. This work was integrated with our audit of the financial statements where appropriate and included analytical review and detailed substantive testing of transactions.

In line with the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts issued March 2025, we have not performed any additional procedures regarding the Trust's compliance with safeguarding, health and safety and estates management.

Conclusion

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which 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 for the purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.



Reporting Accountant
Cooper Parry Group Limited

Statutory Auditor
Cubo Birmingham
4th Floor
Two Chamberlain Square
Birmingham
B3 3AX

Date: 19 December 2025

ODYSSEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

		Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
	Note					
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	-	-	19,027	19,027	169,797
Other trading activities	5	5,627	74,817	-	80,444	87,067
Investments	6	-	35,000	-	35,000	21,000
Charitable activities	4	-	3,849,302	-	3,849,302	3,529,775
Total income		5,627	3,959,119	19,027	3,983,773	3,807,639
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	7,8	-	3,659,208	102,390	3,761,598	3,548,530
Total expenditure		-	3,659,208	102,390	3,761,598	3,548,530
Net income/(expenditure)		5,627	299,911	(83,363)	222,175	259,109
Transfers between funds	17	-	(26,874)	26,874	-	-
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)		5,627	273,037	(56,489)	222,175	259,109
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension schemes	24	-	(96,000)	-	(96,000)	(73,000)
Net movement in funds		5,627	177,037	(56,489)	126,175	186,109
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward	17	31,648	224,973	5,781,039	6,037,660	5,851,551
Total funds carried forward	17	37,275	402,010	5,724,550	6,163,835	6,037,660

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

The notes on pages 31 to 54 form part of these financial statements.

ODYSSEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 08612100

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	14	5,724,550	5,719,125
		<u>5,724,550</u>	<u>5,719,125</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	15	140,273	166,142
Cash at bank and in hand	21	600,012	821,285
		<u>740,285</u>	<u>987,427</u>
Current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(301,000)	(668,892)
		<u>439,285</u>	<u>318,535</u>
Net current assets		<u>6,163,835</u>	<u>6,037,660</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>6,163,835</u>	<u>6,037,660</u>
Net assets excluding pension asset		<u>6,163,835</u>	<u>6,037,660</u>
Total net assets		<u><u>6,163,835</u></u>	<u><u>6,037,660</u></u>
Funds of the Academy Trust			
Restricted funds:			
Fixed asset funds	17	5,724,550	5,781,039
Restricted income funds	17	402,010	224,973
		<u>6,126,560</u>	<u>6,006,012</u>
Total restricted funds	17	<u>6,126,560</u>	<u>6,006,012</u>
Unrestricted income funds	17	37,275	31,648
		<u>6,163,835</u>	<u>6,037,660</u>
Total funds		<u><u>6,163,835</u></u>	<u><u>6,037,660</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 28 to 54 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 18 December 2025 and are signed on their behalf, by:



Miss K A Smith
Chair of Trustees

The notes on pages 31 to 54 form part of these financial statements.

ODYSSEY 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 (used in)/provided by operating activities	19	(132,486)	390,034
Cash flows from investing activities	20	(88,788)	(291,122)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(221,274)	98,912
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		821,285	722,373
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	21, 22	600,011	821,285

The notes on pages 31 to 54 form part of these financial statements

ODYSSEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1. Accounting policies

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

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements of the Academy 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 (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

1.2 Going concern

The Trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Academy 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 Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the Academy Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Taxation

The Academy Trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Academy Trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Part 11, chapter 3 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

1.4 Fund accounting

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

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

1.5 Income

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

- **Grants**

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

ODYSSEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.5 Income (continued)

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

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

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

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

1.6 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.

- **Charitable activities**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.7 Tangible fixed assets

Assets costing £3,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

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

ODYSSEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.7 Tangible fixed assets (continued)

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Long-term leasehold land and buildings	-	0.8%
Long-term leasehold property improvements	-	1.0% to 2.0%
Furniture and equipment	-	15.0%
Computer equipment	-	33.3%

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

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

1.8 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.

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

1.11 Financial instruments

The Academy Trust only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS 102. The financial assets and financial liabilities of the Academy Trust and their measurement 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 15. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Cash at bank is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

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

ODYSSEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.12 Pensions

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

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

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

Where the present value of the defined benefit obligations at the Balance Sheet date is less than the fair value of scheme assets at that date, the scheme has a surplus. The scheme surplus is recognised as a defined benefit plan asset by the Academy Trust only to the extent that the Academy Trust is able to recover the surplus either through reduced contributions in the future or through refunds from the scheme.

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.

ODYSSEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit asset / liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 24, will impact the carrying amount of the pension asset / liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pension asset / liability at 31 August 2025. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension asset / liability.

To the extent there is a surplus in the Local Government Pension Scheme at the Balance Sheet date, there is significant judgment needed in assessing whether the surplus should be recognised as a pension asset or whether the surplus should be restricted to some level or in total. This assessment will need to consider whether the Academy Trust, as the employer, has an unconditional right to a refund of the surplus in the scheme and whether there is an economic accounting benefit available to the Academy Trust as a contribution reduction, which will also include assessing whether a minimum funding requirement for future service and / or past service exists in the scheme. The impact of these assessments on the extent to which the scheme surplus has been recognised as a pension asset at the Balance Sheet date are set out in note 24.

Tangible fixed assets are depreciated over their economic useful lives taking into account residual values where appropriate. The actual lives of the assets and residual values are assessed annually and may vary depending on a number of factors.

Critical areas of judgement:

The Academy Trust obtains use of fixed assets as a lessee. The classification of such leases as operating or finance lease requires the Academy Trust to determine, based on an evaluation of the terms and conditions of the arrangements, whether it retains the risks and rewards of ownership of these assets and accordingly whether the lease requires an asset and liability to be recognised in the Balance Sheet.

The classification of expenditure between restricted and unrestricted funds is deemed as a critical area of judgement as certain expenditure can be applied to both funds. Where this is the case and the amounts in question are considered material the expenditure is apportioned to both funding streams on an appropriate basis.

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

3. Income from donations and capital grants

	Restricted fixed asset funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Capital Grants			
ESFA / DfE capital grants	19,027	19,027	169,797
	<u>19,027</u>	<u>19,027</u>	<u>169,797</u>
	<u>169,797</u>	<u>169,797</u>	
Total 2024			

4. Funding for the Academy Trust's charitable activities

	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Educational activities			
DfE/ESFA grants			
General Annual Grant	2,921,479	2,921,479	2,798,857
DfE/ESFA grants:			
Pupil premium	219,403	219,403	210,993
UIFSM	83,825	83,825	64,895
PE & Sport grant	37,300	37,300	37,310
Core Schools Budget grant	105,667	105,667	-
Mainstream Schools Additional Grant	-	-	96,409
Other DfE/ESFA grants	170,559	170,559	114,798
	<u>3,538,233</u>	<u>3,538,233</u>	<u>3,323,262</u>
Other Government grants			
Local Authority SEN funding	215,879	215,879	135,833
Local Authority Early Years funding	95,190	95,190	70,680
	<u>311,069</u>	<u>311,069</u>	<u>206,513</u>
Total Educational activities	<u>3,849,302</u>	<u>3,849,302</u>	<u>3,529,775</u>
Total 2024	<u>3,529,775</u>	<u>3,529,775</u>	

ODYSSEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

5. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Other trading activities	5,627	74,817	80,444	87,067
	<u>5,627</u>	<u>74,817</u>	<u>80,444</u>	
Total 2024	<u>7,116</u>	<u>79,951</u>	<u>87,067</u>	

6. Investment income

	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
LGPS FRS102 net interest income	35,000	35,000	21,000
	<u>35,000</u>	<u>35,000</u>	
Total 2024	<u>21,000</u>	<u>21,000</u>	

7. Expenditure

	Staff Costs 2025 £	Premises 2025 £	Other 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Educational activities:					
Direct costs	2,405,070	-	292,617	2,697,687	2,590,460
Allocated support costs	482,869	190,227	390,815	1,063,911	958,070
	<u>2,887,939</u>	<u>190,227</u>	<u>683,432</u>	<u>3,761,598</u>	<u>3,548,530</u>
Total 2025	<u>2,887,939</u>	<u>190,227</u>	<u>683,432</u>	<u>3,761,598</u>	<u>3,548,530</u>
	<u>2,887,939</u>	<u>190,227</u>	<u>683,432</u>	<u>3,761,598</u>	
Total 2024	<u>2,664,105</u>	<u>201,369</u>	<u>683,056</u>	<u>3,548,530</u>	

ODYSSEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST
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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 activities	2,697,687	1,063,911	3,761,598	3,548,530
Total 2024	2,590,460	958,070	3,548,530	

Analysis of support costs

	Educational activities 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Staff costs	482,869	482,869	363,740
Technology costs	81,547	81,547	66,707
Recruitment and support	5,953	5,953	3,901
Maintenance of premises and equipment	88,947	88,947	94,165
Cleaning	45,849	45,849	42,029
Rent and rates	17,953	17,953	9,949
Energy costs	76,521	76,521	115,730
Insurance	27,578	27,578	24,010
Security and transport	10,530	10,530	5,065
Catering	142,645	142,645	128,365
Other support costs	14,804	14,804	18,469
Professional fees	30,289	30,289	51,436
Governance costs	38,426	38,426	34,504
Total 2025	1,063,911	1,063,911	958,070
Total 2024	958,070	958,070	

ODYSSEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST
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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	33,641	22,615
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	102,388	88,726
Fees paid to auditor for:		
- audit	14,350	13,650
- other services	7,780	6,150
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

10. Staff

a. Staff costs and employee benefits

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	2,110,347	1,994,359
Social security costs	224,895	167,706
Pension costs	475,873	426,264
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	2,811,115	2,588,329
Agency staff costs	53,518	75,776
Staff restructuring costs	23,306	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	2,887,939	2,664,105
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

	2025 £	2024 £
Redundancy payments	23,306	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	23,306	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

ODYSSEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST
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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 Academy Trust during the year was as follows:

	2025 No.	2024 No.
Teachers	26	23
Administration and support	50	55
Management	5	5
	<u>81</u>	<u>83</u>

c. Higher paid staff

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

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

d. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the Trustees and the Senior Management Team as listed on page 20. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £248,191 (2024 - £206,765).

In addition, the Academy Trust has entered into an "off-payroll" arrangement with a third party organisation for the provision of the services of the Academy Trust's Chief Financial Officer. The total amount paid by the Academy Trust during the year for these services was £13,165 (2024 - £16,236).

ODYSSEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

11. Central services

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

- human resources;
- financial services;
- legal services;
- educational support services.

The Academy Trust charges for these services on the following basis:

- a flat percentage of 5% of the total allocation from the 2024/25 GAG statement.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Humberstone Junior Academy	85,563	80,638
Humberstone Infant Academy	60,511	59,305
Total	<u>146,074</u>	<u>139,943</u>

12. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more Trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the Academy Trust. The Chief Executive only receives remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the role of Chief Executive under their contracts of employment. The value of Trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

		2025 £	2024 £
Miss A Williams	Remuneration	125,000 - 130,000	115,000 - 120,000
	Pension contributions paid	35,000 - 40,000	30,000 - 35,000

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

13. Trustees' and Officers' insurance

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

ODYSSEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

14. Tangible fixed assets

	Long-term leasehold property £	Assets under construction £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation					
At 1 September 2024	5,949,802	51,286	185,424	236,190	6,422,702
Additions	-	51,894	55,919	-	107,813
At 31 August 2025	5,949,802	103,180	241,343	236,190	6,530,515
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2024	439,834	-	44,349	219,394	703,577
Charge for the year	65,881	-	26,236	10,271	102,388
At 31 August 2025	505,715	-	70,585	229,665	805,965
Net book value					
At 31 August 2025	5,444,087	103,180	170,758	6,525	5,724,550
At 31 August 2024	5,509,968	51,286	141,075	16,796	5,719,125

15. Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	-	824
VAT recoverable	18,091	30,736
Prepayments and accrued income	122,182	134,582
	140,273	166,142

ODYSSEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

16. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	101,346	318,871
Other creditors	51,046	52,404
Accruals and deferred income	148,608	297,617
	<u>301,000</u>	<u>668,892</u>
	<u><u>301,000</u></u>	<u><u>668,892</u></u>
	2025 £	2024 £
Deferred income at 1 September 2024	83,729	71,756
Resources deferred during the year	85,716	83,729
Amounts released from previous periods	(83,729)	(71,756)
	<u>85,716</u>	<u>83,729</u>
	<u><u>85,716</u></u>	<u><u>83,729</u></u>

Deferred income at the balance sheet date is represented by grant funds and other educational activities funds received in advance which relate to activities that will be undertaken during the year ending 31 August 2026.

ODYSSEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

17. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 September 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2025 £
Unrestricted funds						
General funds	31,648	5,627	-	-	-	37,275
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant	224,973	2,921,479	(2,717,568)	(26,874)	-	402,010
Pupil Premium	-	219,403	(219,403)	-	-	-
UIFSM	-	83,825	(83,825)	-	-	-
PE/Sports Premium	-	37,300	(37,300)	-	-	-
Core Schools Budget Grant	-	105,667	(105,667)	-	-	-
Other DfE grants	-	170,559	(170,559)	-	-	-
Local Authority grants	-	311,069	(311,069)	-	-	-
Other income	-	74,817	(74,817)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	-	35,000	61,000	-	(96,000)	-
	224,973	3,959,119	(3,659,208)	(26,874)	(96,000)	402,010
Restricted fixed asset funds						
DfE capital grants	61,914	19,027	-	(80,941)	-	-
Fixed assets funded from capital funds	1,982,192	-	(69,998)	107,815	-	2,020,009
Land and buildings at conversion	3,736,933	-	(32,392)	-	-	3,704,541
	5,781,039	19,027	(102,390)	26,874	-	5,724,550
Total Restricted funds	6,006,012	3,978,146	(3,761,598)	-	(96,000)	6,126,560
Total funds	6,037,660	3,983,773	(3,761,598)	-	(96,000)	6,163,835

ODYSSEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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17. Statement of funds (continued)

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

The General Annual Grant funding must be used for the normal running costs of the Academy Trust in line with the Trust's charitable objects and the terms and conditions of the Trust's funding agreement.

All ESFA / DfE grants, which include Pupil Premium grants, Universal Infant Free School Meal grants, PE sports grants, Supplementary grants, Mainstream Schools Additional Grant, Core Schools Budget Grant and other ESFA/DfE grants are all used in accordance with the specific restrictions of the individual grants.

Other grants, which include Local Authority funding, other Government grants and other restricted income, are all used in accordance with the specific restrictions of the individual grants and funding provided.

The Pension reserve represents the Local Government Pension Scheme deficit.

Restricted fixed asset funds represent the investment in fixed assets, net of accumulated depreciation, and includes the value of fixed assets transferred to the Academy Trust on conversion of the Schools within the Academy Trust, together with any capital expenditure funded from restricted or unrestricted funds. Unspent capital grants and capital income are also held in this fund and their use is restricted to the capital projects for which the grant was awarded.

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

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

17. 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	24,532	7,116	-	-	-	31,648
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant	381,747	2,798,857	(2,700,935)	(254,696)	-	224,973
Pupil Premium	-	210,993	(210,993)	-	-	-
UIFSM	-	64,895	(64,895)	-	-	-
PE/Sports Premium	-	37,310	(37,310)	-	-	-
MSAG funding	-	96,409	(96,409)	-	-	-
Local Authority grants	-	206,513	(206,513)	-	-	-
Other DfE grants	-	114,798	(114,798)	-	-	-
Other income	-	79,951	(79,951)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	-	21,000	52,000	-	(73,000)	-
	381,747	3,630,726	(3,459,804)	(254,696)	(73,000)	224,973
Restricted fixed asset funds						
DfE capital grants	98,340	169,797	-	(206,223)	-	61,914
Fixed assets funded from capital funds	1,581,515	-	(56,334)	457,011	-	1,982,192
Land and buildings at conversion	3,765,417	-	(32,392)	3,908	-	3,736,933
	5,445,272	169,797	(88,726)	254,696	-	5,781,039
Total Restricted funds	5,827,019	3,800,523	(3,548,530)	-	(73,000)	6,006,012
Total funds	5,851,551	3,807,639	(3,548,530)	-	(73,000)	6,037,660

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

17. Statement of funds (continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2025 were allocated as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Humberstone Junior Academy	251,036	128,165
Humberstone Infant Academy	172,561	117,393
Central funds	15,688	11,063
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve	439,285	256,621
Restricted fixed asset fund	5,724,550	5,781,039
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	6,163,835	6,037,660
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

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 £
Humberstone Junior Academy	1,151,832	433,329	123,937	278,645	1,987,743	1,897,239
Humberstone Infant Academy	1,163,314	102,845	57,690	255,667	1,579,516	1,474,045
Central funds	89,924	7,695	-	55,330	152,949	140,520
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Academy Trust	2,405,070	543,869	181,627	589,642	3,720,208	3,511,804
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

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

18. 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	-	-	5,724,550	5,724,550
Current assets	37,275	703,010	-	740,285
Creditors due within one year	-	(301,000)	-	(301,000)
Total	<u>37,275</u>	<u>402,010</u>	<u>5,724,550</u>	<u>6,163,835</u>

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	-	-	5,719,125	5,719,125
Current assets	31,648	893,865	61,914	987,427
Creditors due within one year	-	(668,892)	-	(668,892)
Total	<u>31,648</u>	<u>224,973</u>	<u>5,781,039</u>	<u>6,037,660</u>

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

	2025 £	2024 £
Net income for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	222,175	259,109
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	102,390	88,726
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(19,027)	(169,797)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	(61,000)	(52,000)
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	(35,000)	(21,000)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	25,868	(1,201)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(367,892)	286,197
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	<u>(132,486)</u>	<u>390,034</u>

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

20. Cash flows from investing activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(107,815)	(460,919)
Capital grants from DfE Group	19,027	169,797
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(88,788)</u>	<u>(291,122)</u>

21. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash in hand and at bank	600,011	821,285
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>600,011</u>	<u>821,285</u>

22. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2024 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2025 £
Cash at bank and in hand	821,285	(221,273)	600,012
	<u>821,285</u>	<u>(221,273)</u>	<u>600,012</u>

23. Capital commitments

	2025 £	2024 £
Contracted for but not provided in these financial statements		
Acquisition of tangible fixed assets	-	61,915
	<u>-</u>	<u>61,915</u>

24. Pension commitments

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

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

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

24. Pension commitments (continued)

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

Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. Membership is automatic for 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) from 1 April 2024 (contribution rate to 31 March 2024 is 23.68% as set by the 31 March 2019 valuation).
- 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 2025. The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2029.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £332,461 (2024 - £280,866).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website (<https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/members/faqs/valuation.aspx>).

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

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

24. Pension commitments (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2025 was £260,000 (2024 - £244,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £206,000 (2024 - £193,000) and employees' contributions totalled £54,000 (2024 - £51,000). The agreed contribution rates for the period to 31 March 2026 are 23.5% for employers and 5.5% to 12.5% for employees. The triennial valuation of the scheme is currently being undertaken by the scheme actuary and the preliminary proposed contribution rate for employers from 1 April 2026 is showing a reduction from the current rate, although this is subject to the finalisation of the valuation.

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

Principal actuarial assumptions

Leicestershire County Council Pension Fund

	2025	2024
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.20	3.15
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.70	2.65
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	6.10	5.00

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

	2025	2024
	Years	Years
Retiring today		
Males	21.3	21.0
Females	23.8	23.8
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	21.4	21.2
Females	24.8	24.7

Sensitivity analysis

Increase in the reported value of defined benefit obligations:

	2025	2024
	£000	£000
Discount rate -0.1%	66	81
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	120	138
CPI rate +0.1%	65	79

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24. Pension commitments (continued)

Share of scheme assets

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

	At 31 August 2025 £	At 31 August 2024 £
Equities	2,482,000	2,149,000
Corporate bonds	1,527,000	1,405,000
Property	286,000	248,000
Cash and other liquid assets	477,000	331,000
Total market value of assets	4,772,000	4,133,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £423,000 (2024 - £420,000).

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

	2025 £	2024 £
Current service cost	(145,000)	(141,000)
Interest income	212,000	188,000
Interest cost	(177,000)	(167,000)
Total amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities	(110,000)	(120,000)

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

	2025 £	2024 £
At 1 September	3,458,000	3,129,000
Current service cost	145,000	141,000
Interest cost	177,000	167,000
Employee contributions	54,000	51,000
Actuarial (gains)/losses	(781,000)	12,000
Benefits paid	(44,000)	(42,000)
At 31 August	3,009,000	3,458,000

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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24. Pension commitments (continued)

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

	2025 £	2024 £
At 1 September	3,458,000	3,129,000
Interest income	212,000	188,000
Actuarial losses	(877,000)	(61,000)
Employer contributions	206,000	193,000
Employee contributions	54,000	51,000
Benefits paid	(44,000)	(42,000)
At 31 August	<u>3,009,000</u>	<u>3,458,000</u>

Included within actuarial losses on the scheme's assets of £877,000 (2024 - £61,000) is an amount of £1,088,000 (2024 - £293,000) in respect of the restriction on the surplus in the scheme at 31 August 2025 as determined by the asset ceiling calculation prepared by the actuary. The total value of the assets recorded under the "share of scheme assets" detailed above of £4,772,000 (2024 - £4,133,000) has not been decreased in respect of the asset ceiling restriction and represents the rolled forward fair value of the scheme assets at 31 August 2025. Total surplus in the scheme at 31 August 2025 that has been restricted is £1,763,000 (2024 - £675,000).

As detailed in note 2, any surplus in the scheme will only be recognised to the extent that the Trust is able to recover the surplus either through a refund of the surplus or where there is an economic accounting benefit available to the Trust as a reduction in future contributions to the scheme. As detailed above, the triennial valuation of the scheme is currently being undertaken by the scheme actuary and the preliminary proposed contribution rate for employers from 1 April 2026 is showing a reduction from the current rate of 23.5%. As such, there is some uncertainty as to whether some element of the surplus in the scheme at 31 August 2025 should be recognised in the financial statements. This is however dependent on the finalisation of the triennial valuation and the actuary's future asset ceiling calculations and reviews.

25. Operating lease commitments

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

	2025 £	2024 £
Not later than 1 year	28,025	25,021
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	54,107	78,569
Later than 5 years	-	4,550
	<u>82,132</u>	<u>108,140</u>

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

26. Related party transactions

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

The following related party transactions took place during the current and previous year:

Income related party transactions:

The Academy Trust received income from The Learning Project of £Nil during the year (2024 - £1,000) in respect of educational consultancy work undertaken by Miss A Williams, a Trustee and Accounting Officer. Miss A Williams is one of the principals of The Learning Project.

Expenditure related party transactions:

M Ellis, the daughter of Mr R Hughes, a Member of the Academy Trust, is employed by the Trust. Their appointment is long standing and was made prior to the establishment of the Academy Trust and Mr R Hughes' appointment as a Member. They are paid within the normal pay scale for their role and receive no special treatment as a result of their relationship to a Member.

D Hughes, the son of Mr R Hughes, a Member of the Academy Trust, was employed by the Trust until he resigned 25 August 2025. Their appointment was long standing and was made prior to the establishment of the Academy Trust and Mr R Hughes' appointment as a Member. They were paid within the normal pay scale for their role and receive no special treatment as a result of their relationship to a Member.

27. 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.