REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 07848632 (England and Wales)

Report of the Trustees and

Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

for

West Town Lane Academy

Sumer Auditco Limited
Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants
Lennox House
3 Pierrepont Street
Bath
Somerset
BA1 1LB

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for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

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West Town Lane Academy

Reference and Administrative Details for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

MEMBERS	M Croft A Veal S Mcgahern
TRUSTEES	A C Robbins Headteacher L K Dixon Chair C Morgan (resigned 27.9.24) N Prosser J B Coyne A Driscoll K A Nehammer D Rhodes (resigned 31.8.25) E Whiddington M Young (resigned 27.9.24) E Catalin (appointed 7.2.25) F Z Hemming (appointed 28.3.25) J Buckley (appointed 11.7.25) C G Clements (appointed 11.7.25)
REGISTERED OFFICE	West Town Lane Academy West Town Lane Brislington Bristol BS4 5DT
REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER	07848632 (England and Wales)
AUDITORS	Sumer Auditco Limited Statutory Auditor Chartered Accountants Lennox House 3 Pierrepont Street Bath Somerset BA1 1LB
SOLICITORS	Veale Wasborough Orchard Court Bristol BS1 5WS

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and the Report of the Auditors of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Report of the Trustees and a Report of the Directors and Strategic Report under company law.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The primary objective of the Academy is:

- To advance for the public benefit education in the UK, in particular by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing a school offering a broad and balanced curriculum.

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

Our continued focus this year has centred on our disadvantaged pupils. Once again, this group featured prominently in staff performance management targets and appraisals. Internal monitoring confirmed that these pupils receive targeted support through quality-first teaching and, where appropriate, relevant intervention activities. Staff training, encompassing both internal and external support, and was conducted to improve outcomes for this group. This focus has helped to ensure that pupils can fully access the curriculum and make appropriate progress. Evidence of improved outcomes for these children has been demonstrated across the school.

A trauma-informed approach was implemented throughout the school, with external partners delivering staff training during INSET days and regular staff meetings. Adopting this approach has embedded supportive intervention, recognising that challenging behaviours are often adaptive responses to past adversity. This model fosters a culture of safety, predictability, and emotional support, benefiting all students by stabilising the learning environment. The approach directly improves adult-child relationships, enhances emotional regulation skills, and significantly reduces disciplinary incidents, ultimately leading to greater academic engagement and improved long-term outcomes for the school community.

Further reducing teachers' workload and promoting staff well-being has also been a focus this year. Some examples of this work have included the introduction of a new assessment system, further reducing the size of written end-of-year reports, offsetting tasks by linking them to INSET days and weekly staff meetings, and organising a staff team-building and well-being event. Reducing the workload and actively supporting the well-being of our teachers and support staff has ensured the children's education continues to thrive. Excessive administrative burdens have been reduced, and resources for mental and physical health have enabled teachers to focus their energy on high-quality teaching and student engagement. Teacher retention rates are high, which ultimately creates a more positive and effective learning environment for students.

Developing reading across the school has been a priority this year, and this has included promoting the joy of reading. A review of our phonics program took place, which was conducted by a team from our phonics providers (Unlocking Letters and Sounds). The review was extremely positive and successful. Whole-class guided reading was also a focus, with a series of whole-school observations taking place. Practice in this area has been developed to ensure continued success. Assembly adaptations were also implemented, where teachers shared their favourite books and authors with their key stages, with the aim of inspiring the children. This proved to be a success. Our reading lead attended training through our NW24 Cluster and Unlocking Letters and Sounds partners and subsequently rolled out training to staff.

Subject leadership focused on measuring the impact of their areas of responsibility. The aim was to introduce user-friendly systems to enable leaders and teachers to identify areas where pupils have secured relevant skills and knowledge and to identify areas for further development. This system was designed to focus on the impact of the curriculum and pupils' skills. Leaders used assessment to identify areas for development and acted upon their findings. Leaders engaged in both internal and external training and used relevant research from the National College. Leadership was identified as strong during our Ofsted inspection in December.

Our new School Development plan focuses on areas for development based on analysis of assessment and various other monitoring activities. Monitoring the performance of the Academy has involved a wide range of stakeholders including the staff as a whole, Senior Leaders and Governors.

This year, our partnership with NW24 continues to flourish. The Headteacher sits on the steering group and has rolled out School-to-School Reviews within the partnership. Individuals continue to attend training, including: meetings for senior leaders and subject leaders, moderation, INSET, Governor cluster meetings, and general training opportunities.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives, Strategies and Activities
We continue to be involved with training new teachers as part of the Schools Direct programme and work closely with our local Teaching School. Leaders have also engaged in NPQML (National Professional Qualification for Middle Leadership) and NPQSL (National Professional Qualification for Senior Leadership) training. Our Deputy headteacher is an Early Years Foundation Stage moderator for the Local Authority.

The priority areas for the next academic year have been identified as:

1) To continue to implement and develop 'Trauma Informed Practice' at West Town Lane.
2) Ensure assessment information continues to be used to identify gaps in knowledge and work is adapted/personalised precisely for the next steps in children's learning.
3) To improve outcomes for our disadvantaged pupils.
4) To ensure the teaching of writing is planned and delivered effectively across the school.
5) To continue to develop subject leadership skills, leaders to review subject intents and create knowledge organisers.

Public benefit
WTL Academy fulfils the Public Benefit requirements by the following charitable objectives:

- The advancement of education - we are a 660-place school providing direct education to children between 3- 11 years. We are open for 195 days per year, plus provide additional holiday services for up to a further 40 days.

- The advancement of citizenship or community development- we are a Gold Ambassador School for UNICEF under the Rights Respecting Schools scheme. This promotes good citizenship within a local, national and global framework. This work also impacts on other schools within the Bristol area.

- The advancement of amateur sport- we fulfil this requirement through a number of extra-curricular teams, including Netball, Football, Swimming, Cross Country Running, Tennis, Cricket and Rugby. We are an active member of the Ashton Park Schools Sports Partnership programme.

STRATEGIC REPORT
Achievements and performance
Educational operations

Reception & KS1

Headline Good Levels of Development EYFS (Disadvantaged Pupils 7)

	Overall	Boys	Girls	Reading	Writing	Maths	NA	Dis
WTL	67%	57%	75%	74%	71%	83%	65%	43%

Phonics Screening KS1 (17 disadvantaged in Yr 1 and 10 in Yr 2)

	Overall	NA 24	Dis WTL
Yr1	78%	80%	71%
Yr2	92%	89%	84%

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

STRATEGIC REPORT
Achievements and performance
Educational operations

KS2 Outcomes

Year 4 MTC

25/25 score: 48% (up 25%). NA 2024 – 34%

Average score: 22.3 marks (up 3.4 marks) NA 2024 – 20.6

-	Dis WTL
25/25 Marks	**42%**
Average Marks	**20**

Year 6 SATS

Headline statistics KS2 Attainment (23 Disadvantaged Pupils), EAL (5 Pupils), SEN (18 pupils)

RWM combined: (EXS) All – 56% NA – 62% Dis- 35% NA Dis- EAL- 100%
Male (43) – 51% Female – 60% SEND – 28%
(GD) All – 2% NA – 8% Dis – 4% EAL – 20%

Reading

	WTL All	NA All	Dis WTL	Gender F	Gender M
EXS +	69%	75%	48%	79	59
GD	28%		26%	35	19

Writing

	WTL All	NA All	Dis WTL	Gender F	Gender M
EXS +	73%	72%	52%	76	70
GD	8%		4%	16	0

Maths

	WTL All	NA All	Dis WTL	Gender F	Gender M
EXS +	69%	74%	48%	65	75
GD	20%		13%	14	26

SPaG

	WTL All	NA All	Dis WTL
EXS +	67%	73%	48%
GD	22%		4%

Average Scaled Scores

	WTL All 25	NA 25	WTL Dis 25
Reading	103.4	106	102
Maths	102.5	105	99
SPaG	104.1	105	99

EXS – Expected Standard **SPaG – Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar** **Dis – Disadvantaged Pupils**
NA – National Average **EXS - Expected Standard** **GD – Greater Depth**

Key Financial Performance Indicators
The academy prepares an annual budget as well as regular management accounts with performance against forecast figures reviewed. Any significant variances from budget are discussed and action taken where required. KPIs for the academy include, as well as costs against budget, pupil numbers which are a key indicator for both the success of the school and in determining the level of its principal source of income.

STRATEGIC REPORT
Financial review
Financial position
The Academy has a healthy carry forward and closing balance, whilst still managing to have a very good level of resources. The majority of the funding received is spent on staffing, with the remainder on facilities management and delivery of the curriculum. The principal source of funding is direct from the DfE, although other sources of income include a number of services provided to other schools, in addition to the catering provided in-house.

There was a planned deficit of £48K in 2024/25 (before depreciation and pension revaluation) due to additional SEN expenses. Costs for the roof project were initially budgeted as revenue expenditure but were capitalised, giving a surplus of £13,862.

Reserves are currently at 12% of total income.

The Academy invested £213K in Fixed assets in 2024/2025. This was split between our new
LED lighting for the whole school, Ipads and replacement of a Freezer and a Boiler. This includes £164K of ongoing work on the flat roof, part of a £468K project.

Investment policy and objectives
The school has an Investment policy which is reviewed annually. All investments are in UK bank accounts.

Reserves Policy
The school has a Reserves policy which is reviewed annually. When deciding the level of reserves to maintain, the board considers:

The size of the trust.
The trust's estates strategy.
The trust's future plans.
Upcoming risks and opportunities.

The target level of reserves will be informed by:

o The trust's forecasts for levels of income for the current and future years, taking into account the reliability of each source of income and the prospects for developing new income sources.
o The trust's forecasts for expenditure for the current and future years on the basis of planned activity.
o Analysis of any future needs, opportunities, commitments or risks, where future income alone is likely to fall short of the amount of the anticipated costs.
o An assessment, on the best evidence reasonably available, of the likelihood of a shortfall arising which means that reserves are necessary, and the potential consequences for the trust of not being able to make up the shortfall.

The financial risk to the trust will be balanced alongside our vision to maintain the highest levels of education. Excluding Depreciation and Pension adjustments the Academy has a good level of reserves.

The trust will hold a minimum reserve of £150,000. This equates to 5 percent of the trust's general annual grant (GAG). The trust will set a maximum limit for its unrestricted reserve funds of £600,000. This equates to 20 percent of the trust's GAG.

Going concern
After making appropriate enquiries, the governing body 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.

Principal risks and uncertainties
The principal risk to the Academy is based on pupil numbers. These are currently positive, but if the figures projected by Bristol City Council for the number of children and families in the area are correct, this could potentially impact on pupil numbers for the Academy. Projections on birth rates over the next 4-5 years indicate a drop, however parent choice for West Town Lane Academy continues to be high and so whilst this needs to be monitored it is not a current issue.

The reserves of the academy allow us to absorb the significant pay grade increase proposed for both Support and Teaching staff. However, the trustees are aware that currently the support staff are unfunded and that unless additional funding is received in the future, costs savings may have to be investigated.

The uncertainty around SEN funding is an identified risk to the Academy with the number of EHCPs increasing during the year.

West Town Lane Academy has a building built from 1950's onwards. An additional risk would be the condition of the Building. There was an external condition survey completed in June 2023, in which the only major issue identified was the flat roof of the school which needed to be replaced within 5 years. The Academy engaged professional support to apply for CIF funding and was successful, with the roofing works due for completion in December 2025.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Financial and risk management objectives and policies

The number of children in our current year 6 is lower than average at 69 and has been a low cohort since reception. Since then the reception classes have increased and we are back at full capacity for the current reception class. The average number of pupils in each class across the school stands at 28, which is slightly above average. Pupil numbers in Nursery continue to be strong with our 30 places full, a total of 39 pupils take up the spaces available throughout the week. We are oversubscribed in Nursery.

Projections from Bristol City Council suggest pupil numbers are decreasing over the coming years due to lower birth rates, this needs to be monitored. Pupil numbers for this year were expected to be lower, however are still full in reception which highlights the popularity of the school.

Cashflow is currently very good, with a monthly income from the DfE plus payments from Bristol City Council for nursery pupils plus children with High Needs. We pay all invoices within their stated periods, and have no significant invoices outstanding. Similarly, we receive all monies due to us in a timely fashion.

The School Business Manager is a qualified accountant which reduces the financial risk to the Academy.

There is a pension surplus for the scheme administered by BANES. The surplus in the Defined Benefit Pension Scheme has been recognised as a pension asset on the balance sheet.

Future plans

West Town Lane Academy is committed to continuous improvement in achieving value for money. Key objectives for the upcoming financial year include:

1. **Targeted capital investment** to further reduce the building's operational costs and improve teaching environments and increase the school lettings.
2. **Investment in new technologies** to enhance the efficiency of administrative processes and free up staff time for direct educational support.
3. **Benchmarking and Networking** - to work with NW24 a large Bristol Cluster of schools which includes other standalone academy's in order to improve outcomes and to further support SLT.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution

The academy trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The Charitable Company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy trust. The governors act as the trustees for the charitable activities of West Town Lane Academy are also the directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law.

Details of the governors who served throughout the period except as noted 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 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 cease to be a member.

Principal activities

WTL Academy provides education for children aged 3-11 years. Our Academy is particularly proud of the sporting and enrichment opportunities we offer children, providing a rich and broad curriculum. We also offer enhanced learning opportunities using modern technology, with tablets and mobile devices used extensively by pupils and staff. Our last Ofsted Inspection was in December 2024 where we were graded as Good.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of governors
New Governors are recruited in different ways, depending on the type of vacancy available. Parent governor vacancies are always advertised to the whole parent body, with options for ballot if the number of interested parties exceeds the places available. These places have to be proposed by other parents/ carers. Community governors are sourced from our local community. The governors may Co-opt to three additional governors who may bring skills or knowledge to the Full Governing Body (FGB) that would benefit the Academy.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel
The Teachers pay and conditions document is the reference point for setting pay for the academy's key management personnel/leadership team. The Headteachers pay is approved by the Governing Body. All other leadership post pay is approved by the pay committee.

Organisational structure
The Academy has very clear procedures in place for delegating powers to the Headteacher or to the sub committees of the FGB, and these are detailed in Terms of Reference for each committee. The Headteacher leads the day to day running of the Academy, which also includes the recruitment of staff apart from senior leadership team appointments. The FGB is responsible for the strategic vision of the Academy, including the development plan and budget.

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of governors
We have good procedures for the training of governors. These include using the Bristol Governor Development Service, governor Clerk network meetings and access to a suite of training programmes run online.

Related parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations
WTL Academy is an independent converter Academy and is not affiliated to any other. However, it does have links with the Bristol Primary Teaching School Alliance, NW24 , University of the West of England and Bath Spa University.

Risk management
There are several areas of risk to the Academy, including financial, governance, teaching and use of IT. These are detailed in a risk document which is reviewed termly. The budget is well controlled, with regular independent checks by our Responsible Officer as well as subcommittee meetings. Annual audits are carried out to ensure compliance and to make recommendations for the future. Health & safety risk assessments are carried out in accordance with Policy, with an external company (Delegated Services) available for advice and guidance.

AUDITORS
In so far as the governors are aware:
- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the governors 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.

Report of the trustees, incorporating a strategic report, approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on ....4.12.25................. and signed on the board's behalf by:

....
L K Dixon - Trustee

West Town Lane Academy

Governance Statement
for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

As governors, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that West Town Lane Academy 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.

The governing body has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Headteacher, as accounting officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between West Town Lane Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the governing body any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

GOVERNANCE

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Report of the Trustees and in the Statement of Trustees Responsibilities. The full board of trustees has formally met six times during the year, subcommittees have also met. The Finance and Audit committee met six times. The Curriculum, Achievement and Pastoral Care committee met four times. Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of trustees was as follows:

Name of Governor	Start of Governor Term	Type of Governor	Date left	FGB's Attended
Marianne Croft	01/09/2024	Member	N/A	N/A
Alan Veal	01/01/2025	Member	N/A	N/A
Sarah Mcgahern	01/01/2025	Member	N/A	N/A
Adrian Robbins	01/01/2016	Headteacher	N/A	6
Louisa Dixon	22/05/2019	Community	N/A	6
Ellie Whiddington	04/11/2020	Staff	N/A	1
Neil Prosser	07/06/2022	Community	N/A	6
Cath Morgan	11/12/2020	Community	27/09/2024	0
Michelle Young	19/05/2023	Community	27/09/2024	0
Dan Rhodes	29/09/2023	Community	31/08/2025	3
Joe Coyne	12/07/2024	Parent	N/A	3
Angela Driscoll	29/09/2023	Staff	N/A	3
Katy Nehammer	12/07/2024	Parent	N/A	5
Eugen Pitrop	24/01/2025	Community	N/A	1
Fatima Hemming	28/08/2025	Parent	N/A	2
Judith Buckley	11/07/2025	Co-opted	N/A	1
Colin Clements	11/07/2025	Co-opted	N/A	1

The Finance and Audit Committee is a sub-committee of the main governing body. Its purposes are to approve expenditure between £2.5K-£10K, to approve the main budget, monitor expenditure and balances, to oversee maintenance of the buildings and to ensure the Academy complies with H&S requirements.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows

Governor	Meeting attended	Out of a Possible
Adrian Robbins	6	6
Louisa Dixon	6	6
Neil Prosser	6	6
Joe Coyne	4	6
Eugen Pitrop	1	4
Fatima Hemming	2	2

The committee is also attended by the following staff:

Carrie Spittlehouse (Business Manager)	5	6

The academy maintains a register of interests for all Governors and key management personnel. This is considered at every board and committee meeting. The register is readily available for the finance team to consider when utilising suppliers.

REVIEW OF VALUE FOR MONEY

As accounting officer, the Principal has responsibility for ensuring that the charity delivers good value in the use of public resources. The accounting officer understands that value for money refers to 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 charity's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the board of trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data or by using a framework where appropriate. The accounting officer for the academy trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

The Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team of West Town Lane Academy are committed to achieving outstanding value for money (VfM) in the use of public funds. Value for money is defined as securing the optimal combination of economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the deployment of resources to maximize educational outcomes and overall impact for our students and the wider community.

This statement outlines the key strategies, controls, and performance indicators utilized during the financial year ending 31 August 2025 to ensure all resources deliver tangible benefits against the Academy's strategic objectives.

Educational Outcomes and Effectiveness
Maximizing educational effectiveness is the primary focus of all resource allocation.

-**Student Attainment and Progress**: Resources, particularly staffing, are directed towards core subjects and targeted intervention programs. This is shown in the December 2025 Ofsted report.

-**Curriculum Enrichment:** Funds were allocated to expanding the extracurricular offering and enhancing the provision for physical and creative development. Significant investment in the Play pod initiative has transformed unstructured playtimes, promoting student creativity, social skills, and overall well-being, providing a holistic educational experience that is crucial for student development.

-**Staff Development**: A robust Continuing Professional Development (CPD) program was funded to ensure teaching staff remain current with best practices. The increasing number of children on the SEND register, resulted in 18 different types of training as shown in our Annual SEND report. The school also invested in two staff members to gain nationally recognised qualifications.

Economy and Efficiency in Resource Management

The Academy rigorously manages its non-teaching resources and administrative overheads to ensure maximum funds are available for the frontline education of students.

-**Staffing Efficiency**: We have maintained an efficient staff-to-student ratio while ensuring effective coverage across all necessary educational and support roles When staff leave the roles are evaluated before recruitment. An example of this is the review in the Premises team when our caretaker left resulting in a revised structure, that was more effective and cost efficient.
-**Estate Management**: The Academy employed proactive management of its building and estate, focusing on sustainability and long-term cost reduction. This included the crucial project of installing LED lighting throughout the main school buildings, which has resulted in a measured reduction in utility consumption and lower long-term maintenance costs.
-**Digital Infrastructure**: There is a rolling IT replacement plan which ensures value for money. The school invested in an additional set of IPads in 2024/2025.
-**Procurement and Financial Control.**
The Academy's financial management systems are designed to ensure rigorous control and competitive procurement, ensuring economy in all expenditure.
-**Competitive Tendering**: All high-value procurement, including, utilities, and large capital projects, were conducted via a competitive tendering process in line with the Academy's financial regulations.
-**Investment Review**: The Governing Body reviews of its reserve investment strategies, ensuring that the Academy's financial assets are managed securely and maximizing return in line with risk appetite, thus safeguarding funds for future capital projects.
Use of Frameworks: The Academy utilizes national and sector-specific procurement frameworks [e.g., Crescent Purchasing Consortium (CPC), CCS] where appropriate, ensuring compliance and maximizing purchasing power.
-**Internal Controls and Governance**: The Governing Body actively monitors budgets and expenditure through regular finance committee meetings. Robust internal controls, subject to internal audit, provide assurance over the integrity of financial systems and asset safeguarding.

Governance Statement
for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

THE PURPOSE OF THE SYSTEM OF INTERNAL CONTROL

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of academy trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in West Town Lane Academy Trust for the period ended 31 August 2025 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

CAPACITY TO HANDLE RISK

The governing body 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 Governing Body worked with an external provider on identifying risk during 2024/2025.

The governing body 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 ending 31 August 2025 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the governing body.

THE RISK AND CONTROL FRAMEWORK

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the governing body;
- regular reviews by the Finance and Premises 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;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- identification and management of risks.

The governing body has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided not to appoint an internal auditor. However, the governors have appointed an independent Responsible Officer ('RO'). Bishop Fleming have been appointed to this role.

The RO's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the academy trust's financial systems. Bishop Fleming were newly appointed in the prior year. They conducted a full review of the internal controls. The governors have focused 24/25 on payroll and strategic planning

Finances are audited annually by Sumer AuditCo Limited.

REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS

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

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 4/12/25 and signed on its behalf by:

L K Dixon - Trustee

A Robbins - Accounting Officer

West Town Lane Academy

Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

As accounting officer of West Town Lane Academy, 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 charitable company board of trustees and DfE of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management.

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

....

A Robbins - Accounting Officer

Date: 4/12/25

West Town Lane Academy

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

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

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- 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 to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are 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 auditors are aware of that information.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 4/12/25 and signed on its behalf by:

....

L K Dixon - Trustee

Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of West Town Lane Academy

Opinion
We have audited the financial statements of West Town Lane Academy (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 August 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and the Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by the Department for Education (DfE).

In our opinion the financial statements:
- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company'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;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2019 and Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025.

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

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

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

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

Other information
The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 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.

Opinions 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 Report of the Trustees for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Report of the Trustees.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:
- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

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

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

Our 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 a Report of the Independent Auditors 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.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud, are; to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the company.

Our approach was as follows:

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the company and considered that the most significant are the Companies Act 2006, UK Financial Reporting Standards and UK taxation legislation.

We obtained an understanding of how the company complies with these requirements by discussions with management and those charged with governance.

We inquired of management and those charged with governance as to any known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations.

Based on this understanding, we designed specific appropriate audit procedures to identify instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. This included making enquiries of management and those charged with governance and obtaining additional corroborative evidence as required.

We assessed the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, including the risk of material misstatement due to fraud and how it might occur, by holding discussions with management and those charged with governance.

We gained an understanding of the controls that the client have in place to prevent and detect fraud.

We tested the appropriateness and reliability of the valuation of the LGPS liability, ensuring the reasonableness of assumptions used by the actuary to third parties.

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 Report of the Independent Auditors.

Use of our report

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

Simon Cunningham (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Sumer Auditco Limited
Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants
Lennox House
3 Pierrepont Street
Bath
Somerset
BA1 1LB

Date: 12/12/25

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to West Town Lane Academy and the Secretary of State for Education

In accordance with the terms of our engagement 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 West Town Lane Academy during the period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 have not been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to West Town Lane Academy 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 West Town Lane Academy 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 West Town Lane Academy and the Secretary of State for Education, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the accounting officer of West Town Lane Academy and the reporting accountant
The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of West Town Lane Academy's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education and the Academy Trust Handbook for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes but not limited to the following:

- Reviewing minutes of meetings, management accounts and making enquiries of management;
- Performing sample testing of expenditure ensuring items are for the School's purposes and are appropriately authorised;
- Sample testing on credit card expenditure, review for any indication of purchase for personal use by Staff, Headteacher or Governors;
- Reviewing the procedures for identifying and declaring related parties and other business interests;
- Obtaining formal representation from the Governing Body and Accounting Officer acknowledging their responsibilities;
- Scrutinising journals, and other adjustments posted during the year for evidence of unusual entries and making further enquiries into any such items where relevant;
- Performing an evaluation of the general control environment of the School;
- Reviewing nominal ledger accounts for any large or unusual entries, obtaining supporting documentation and making further enquiries into any such items where relevant.

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to West Town Lane Academy and the Secretary of State for Education

Conclusion

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

Sumer Auditco Limited

Sumer Auditco Limited
Reporting Accountants
Lennox House
3 Pierrepont Street
Bath
Somerset
BA1 1LB

Date: 12/12/25

West Town Lane Academy

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Restricted fixed asset funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM						
Donations and capital grants	2	23,324	-	160,923	184,247	42,315
Charitable activities						
Funding for the academy's educational operations	3	-	3,675,470	-	3,675,470	3,469,021
Other trading activities	4	180,009	62,701	-	242,710	220,274
Investment income	5	8,260	-	-	8,260	1,799
Total		211,593	3,738,171	160,923	4,110,687	3,733,409
EXPENDITURE ON						
Raising funds	7	-	168,429	-	168,429	150,390
Charitable activities						
Academy's educational operations	8	222,603	3,554,946	150,847	3,928,396	3,689,402
Total		222,603	3,723,375	150,847	4,096,825	3,839,792
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(11,010)	14,796	10,076	13,862	(106,383)
Transfers between funds	19	(23,594)	(30,621)	54,215	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit schemes		-	585,000	-	585,000	15,000
Net movement in funds		(34,604)	569,175	64,291	598,862	(91,383)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
Total funds brought forward		358,194	(210,281)	5,762,309	5,910,222	6,001,605
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		323,590	358,894	5,826,600	6,509,084	5,910,222

The notes form part of these financial statements

West Town Lane Academy

Balance Sheet
31 August 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Restricted fixed asset funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible assets	14	-	-	5,826,600	5,826,600	5,762,308
CURRENT ASSETS						
Stocks	15	-	788	-	788	788
Debtors	16	-	177,724	-	177,724	129,870
Cash at bank		323,590	287,085	162,823	773,498	713,831
		323,590	465,597	162,823	952,010	844,489
CREDITORS						
Amounts falling due within one year	17	-	(294,703)	(162,823)	(457,526)	(247,575)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		323,590	170,894	-	494,484	596,914
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		323,590	170,894	5,826,600	6,321,084	6,359,222
PENSION ASSET/(LIABILITY)	20	-	188,000	-	188,000	(449,000)
NET ASSETS		323,590	358,894	5,826,600	6,509,084	5,910,222

	Notes	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
FUNDS	19		
Restricted funds:			
General Annual Grant		170,894	238,719
Pension Reserve		188,000	(449,000)
Transfer on Conversion - Fixed assets		4,955,760	5,082,007
Capital Expenditure from GAG		683,290	653,675
Other Capital Grants		187,550	26,627
		6,185,494	5,552,028
Unrestricted funds:			
Academy Reserves Private		323,590	358,194
TOTAL FUNDS		6,509,084	5,910,222

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on ....4.11.25.............. and were signed on its behalf by:

....
L K Dixon - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

West Town Lane Academy

Cash Flow Statement
for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	114,168	(38,312)
Interest paid		(285)	(1,581)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		113,883	(39,893)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(215,139)	(14,816)
Capital grants from DfE/EFA		160,923	11,216
Net cash used in investing activities		(54,216)	(3,600)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		59,667	(43,493)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		713,831	757,324
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		773,498	713,831

The notes form part of these financial statements

Notes to the Cash Flow Statement for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2025 £	2024 £
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	13,862	(106,383)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	150,848	146,265
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA	(160,923)	(11,216)
Interest paid	285	1,581
Increase in debtors	(47,854)	(33,354)
Increase in creditors	209,950	13,795
Difference between pension charge and cash contributions	(52,000)	(49,000)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operations	114,168	(38,312)

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.9.24 £	Cash flow £	At 31.8.25 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank	713,831	59,667	773,498
	713,831	59,667	773,498
Total	713,831	59,667	773,498

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements
The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by the DfE, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

West Town Lane Academy meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

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

Income
All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

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

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

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

Donations
Donations are recognised on a receivable basis (where there are no performance related conditions), where it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

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

Expenditure
Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, 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 accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

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

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

continued...

1. **ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued**

Tangible fixed assets
Assets costing £500 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the Balance Sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. 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 such assets is charged to the restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities so as to reduce the fund over the useful economic life of the related asset on a basis consistent with the Academy's depreciation policy.

Land and buildings transferred to the Academy on conversion from the Local Authority have been included at their depreciated replacement cost.

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

Freehold buildings	50 years
ICT equipment	3 years
Classroom fittings	5 years
Office Equipment	5 years

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

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

Taxation
The charitable company 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 charitable company 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.

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

Restricted funds comprise grants from the DfE and other donors which are to be used for specific purposes, imposed by the donors.

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

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

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

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

continued...

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

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

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

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

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

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions which are disclosed in note 19, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2025. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

2. DONATIONS AND CAPITAL GRANTS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2025 Total funds	2024 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Donations	9,864	-	9,864	13,020
Grants	-	160,923	160,923	11,216
Other income	13,460	-	13,460	18,079
	23,324	160,923	184,247	42,315

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other DfE/ESFA Capital Grants	160,923	11,216

continued...

3. FUNDING FOR THE ACADEMY'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
DfE/ESFA grants				
General Annual Grant(GAG)	-	2,789,050	2,789,050	2,656,215
Other DfE / ESFA grants	-	496,501	496,501	470,717
	-	3,285,551	3,285,551	3,126,932
Other Government grant				
Local authority revenue grant	-	389,919	389,919	342,089
	-	3,675,470	3,675,470	3,469,021

4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
Residentials and trips	-	62,701	62,701	52,307
School meals	46,643	-	46,643	50,929
Uniform sales	777	-	777	758
Other	132,589	-	132,589	116,280
	180,009	62,701	242,710	220,274

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
Short term deposits	8,260	-	8,260	1,799

6. EXPENDITURE

		Non-pay expenditure		2025	2024
	Staff costs £	Premises £	Other costs £	Total £	Total £
Raising funds					
Costs of fundraising					
Direct costs	-	-	168,429	168,429	150,390
Charitable activities					
Academy's educational operations					
Direct costs	1,991,094	126,247	134,653	2,251,994	2,051,384
Allocated support costs	1,357,081	107,694	211,627	1,676,402	1,638,018
	3,348,175	233,941	514,709	4,096,825	3,839,792

continued...

6. EXPENDITURE - continued

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2025 £	2024 £
Depreciation - owned assets	150,847	146,265
Auditors' remuneration	8,740	8,000
Auditors' remuneration for non audit work	1,400	1,300

7. RAISING FUNDS

Costs of fundraising

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
Costs of generating funds	-	168,429	168,429	150,390

8. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES - ACADEMY'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
Direct costs	222,603	2,029,391	2,251,994	2,051,384
Support costs	-	1,676,402	1,676,402	1,638,018
	222,603	3,705,793	3,928,396	3,689,402

	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Analysis of support costs		
Support staff costs	1,357,081	1,308,892
Depreciation	24,600	20,018
Technology costs	1,338	1,337
Premises costs	107,694	112,223
Other support costs	131,743	141,118
Governance costs	53,946	54,430
Total support costs	1,676,402	1,638,018

9. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management £	Governance costs £	Totals £
Academy's educational operations	1,622,456	53,946	1,676,402

continued...

10. STAFF COSTS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	2,434,378	2,310,315
Social security costs	255,234	206,979
Operating costs of defined benefit pension schemes	561,266	477,760
	3,250,878	2,995,054
Supply teacher costs	97,297	89,504
	3,348,175	3,084,558

The average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the charitable company during the year was as follows:

	2025	2024
Teachers	25	25
Administration and support	37	43
Management	5	3
	67	71

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

	2025	2024
£60,001 - £70,000	1	1
£70,001 - £80,000	1	-
£80,001 - £90,000	-	1
£90,001 - £100,000	1	-
	3	2

The above employees participated in the Teachers' Pension Scheme. During the period ended 31 August 2025, pension contributions for these staff members amounted to £64,358 (2024: £22,479).

Key Management Personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees, the Headteacher, the Deputy Headteachers, the Assistant Headteacher and the SENCO. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £359,090 - inclusive of project work and maternity cover (2024: £285,809).

11. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS - TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

The principal and other staff trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal and staff, and not in respect of their services as trustees. Other trustees did not receive any payments, other than expenses, from the academy trust in respect of their role as trustees. The value of trustees' remuneration was as follows:

A Robbins (Principal and Staff trustee)
Remuneration: £90,000 - £100,000 (2024: £80,000 - £85,000)
Er's Pension: £25,000 - £30,000 (2024: £20,000 - £25,000)

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12. 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 the trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business, and provides unlimited cover. It is not possible to quantify the trustees and officers indemnity element from the overall cost of the RPA scheme.

13. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Restricted fixed asset funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM				
Donations and capital grants	31,099	-	11,216	42,315
Charitable activities				
Funding for the academy's educational operations	-	3,469,021	-	3,469,021
Other trading activities	62,713	157,561	-	220,274
Investment income	1,799	-	-	1,799
Total	95,611	3,626,582	11,216	3,733,409
EXPENDITURE ON				
Raising funds	489	149,901	-	150,390
Charitable activities				
Academy's educational operations	-	3,543,137	146,265	3,689,402
Total	489	3,693,038	146,265	3,839,792
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	95,122	(66,456)	(135,049)	(106,383)
Transfers between funds	-	(3,600)	3,600	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)				
Actuarial gains on defined benefit schemes	-	15,000	-	15,000
Net movement in funds	95,122	(55,056)	(131,449)	(91,383)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	263,072	(155,225)	5,893,758	6,001,605
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	358,194	(210,281)	5,762,309	5,910,222

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14. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST				
At 1 September 2024	7,171,698	427,521	151,860	7,751,079
Additions	165,115	40,025	9,999	215,139
At 31 August 2025	7,336,813	467,546	161,859	7,966,218
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 September 2024	1,435,678	408,530	144,563	1,988,771
Charge for year	126,247	16,491	8,109	150,847
At 31 August 2025	1,561,925	425,021	152,672	2,139,618
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 August 2025	5,774,888	42,525	9,187	5,826,600
At 31 August 2024	5,736,020	18,991	7,297	5,762,308

15. STOCKS

	2025 £	2024 £
Food	788	788

16. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025 £	2024 £
Other debtors	70,674	32,420
Prepayments and accrued income	107,050	97,450
	177,724	129,870

17. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	234,336	36,240
Other creditors	126,181	109,675
Accruals and deferred income	97,009	101,660
	457,526	247,575

Deferred Income

	2025 £	2024 £
Deferred income at 1 September	62,158	58,086
Resources deferred in the year	66,368	62,158
Amounts released from previous years	(62,158)	(58,086)
Deferred income at 31 August	66,368	62,158

At the balance sheet date the School was holding funds totalling £50,190 received in advance for the Universal Infant Free School Meal Grant. The remaining deferred income relates to payments received in the year ended 31 August 2025 relating to the 2025/26 academic year.

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18. 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 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 cease to be a member.

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.9.24	Net movement in funds	Transfers between funds	At 31.8.25
	£	£	£	£
Restricted general funds				
General Annual Grant	238,719	(13,610)	(54,215)	170,894
Trips and activites	-	(23,594)	23,594	-
Pension Reserve	(449,000)	637,000	-	188,000
Transfer on Conversion - Fixed assets	5,082,007	(126,247)	-	4,955,760
Capital Expenditure from GAG	653,675	(24,600)	54,215	683,290
Other Capital Grants	26,627	160,923	-	187,550
	5,552,028	609,872	23,594	6,185,494
Unrestricted fund				
Academy Reserves Private	358,194	(11,010)	(23,594)	323,590
TOTAL FUNDS	5,910,222	598,862	-	6,509,084

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Gains and losses	Movement in funds
	£	£	£	£
Restricted general funds				
General Annual Grant	2,789,050	(2,802,660)	-	(13,610)
Other DfE/ESFA grants	496,501	(496,501)	-	-
Other Government grants	389,919	(389,919)	-	-
Trips and activites	62,701	(86,295)	-	(23,594)
Pension Reserve	-	52,000	585,000	637,000
Transfer on Conversion - Fixed assets	-	(126,247)	-	(126,247)
Capital Expenditure from GAG	-	(24,600)	-	(24,600)
Other Capital Grants	160,923	-	-	160,923
	3,899,094	(3,874,222)	585,000	609,872
Unrestricted fund				
Academy Reserves Private	211,593	(222,603)	-	(11,010)
TOTAL FUNDS	4,110,687	(4,096,825)	585,000	598,862

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19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.9.23 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.8.24 £
Restricted general funds				
General Annual Grant	357,775	(97,627)	(21,429)	238,719
Trips and activites	-	(17,829)	17,829	-
Pension Reserve	(513,000)	64,000	-	(449,000)
Transfer on Conversion - Fixed assets	5,204,654	(122,647)	-	5,082,007
Capital Expenditure from GAG	673,693	(23,618)	3,600	653,675
Other Capital Grants	15,411	11,216	-	26,627
	5,738,533	(186,505)	-	5,552,028
Unrestricted fund				
Academy Reserves Private	263,072	95,122	-	358,194
TOTAL FUNDS	6,001,605	(91,383)	-	5,910,222

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Restricted general funds				
General Annual Grant	2,656,216	(2,753,843)	-	(97,627)
Other DfE/ESFA grants	575,971	(575,971)	-	-
Other Government grants	342,089	(342,089)	-	-
Trips and activites	52,306	(70,135)	-	(17,829)
Pension Reserve	-	49,000	15,000	64,000
Transfer on Conversion - Fixed assets	-	(122,647)	-	(122,647)
Capital Expenditure from GAG	-	(23,618)	-	(23,618)
Other Capital Grants	11,216	-	-	11,216
	3,637,798	(3,839,303)	15,000	(186,505)
Unrestricted fund				
Academy Reserves Private	95,611	(489)	-	95,122
TOTAL FUNDS	3,733,409	(3,839,792)	15,000	(91,383)

Notes

(i) Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the academy trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2025.
(ii) Includes pupil premium funding.
(iii) Funding received from the Local Authority specifically for providing education to students with Special Educational Needs.
(iv) Net assets (including pension deficit) transferred to the Academy School from the Local Authority on conversion, to be used in achieving the objectives of the Trust.
(v) Private funds consists of various restricted income streams, primarily activities and trips and donations from the Parents and Friends Association.
(vi) The pension reserve represents the liability for staff pensions under the Local Government Pension Scheme, as discussed at note 20.
(vii) Designated funds consists mainly of income generated from provision of facilities, including rental income. These funds are to be used for refurbishing facilities in future years.

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20. PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS

The charity'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 Avon Pension Fund. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

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

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

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £317,719 (2024 - £244,459).

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

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102, the TPS is an unfunded multi-employer pension scheme. The charity is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the plan. Accordingly, the charity 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 charity has set out above the information available on the scheme.

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2025 was £304,000 (2024 - £295,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £243,000 (2024 - £236,000). and employees' contributions totalled £61,000 (2024 - £59,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 14.10 per cent for employers and 8.30 per cent for employees.

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

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20. PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS - continued

The amounts recognised in the Balance Sheet are as follows:

	Defined benefit pension plans	
	2025	2024
	£	£
Present value of funded obligations	(2,559,000)	(2,934,000)
Fair value of plan assets	2,747,000	2,485,000
	188,000	(449,000)
Present value of unfunded obligations	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit)	188,000	(449,000)
Net asset/(liability)	188,000	(449,000)

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

	Defined benefit pension plans	
	2025	2024
	£	£
Current service cost	169,000	159,000
Net interest from net defined benefit asset/liability	16,000	22,000
Past service cost	-	-
	185,000	181,000
Actual return on plan assets	36,000	181,000

Changes in the present value of the defined benefit obligation are as follows:

	Defined benefit pension plans	
	2025	2024
	£	£
Opening opening defined benefit obliga tion	2,934,000	2,616,000
Current service cost	169,000	159,000
Contributions by scheme participants	61,000	59,000
Interest cost	146,000	139,000
Benefits paid	(72,000)	(88,000)
Remeasurement of obligations	(679,000)	49,000
	2,559,000	2,934,000

Changes in the fair value of scheme assets are as follows:

	Defined benefit pension plans	
	2025	2024
	£	£
Opening fair value of scheme assets	2,485,000	2,103,000
Contributions by employer	243,000	236,000
Contributions by scheme participants	61,000	59,000
Admin expenses	(6,000)	(6,000)
Interest on plan assets	130,000	117,000
Remeasurement of assets	(94,000)	64,000
Benefits paid	(72,000)	(88,000)
	2,747,000	2,485,000

continued...

20. PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS - continued

The amounts recognised in other recognised gains and losses are as follows:

	Defined benefit pension plans	
	2025	2024
	£	£
Remeasurement of obligations	679,000	(49,000)
	679,000	(49,000)

The major categories of scheme assets as a percentage of total scheme assets are as follows:

	Defined benefit pension plans	
	2025	2024
Equities	40.90%	50.40%
Bonds	28.50%	30.20%
Property	4.90%	5.00%
Cash	-4.90%	-14.70%
Other	30.60%	29.10%
	100.00%	100.00%

Principal actuarial assumptions at the Balance Sheet date (expressed as weighted averages):

	2025	2024
Discount rate	6.20%	5.00%
Future salary increases	4.00%	4.10%
Future pension increases	2.60%	2.70%
Inflation - CPI	2.50%	2.60%

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

Retiring today		
Males	23.1	23.1
Females	26	26
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	22	21.9
Females	24.5	24.1

Sensitivity analysis

	2025	2024
	£	£
Discount rate +0.1%	(44,000)	179,000
Discount rate -0.1%	44,000	-
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	42,000	508,000
Mortality assumption - 1 year decrease	(41,000)	-
CPI rate +0.1%	44,000	594,000
CPI rate -0.1%	(43,000)	-

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21. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Contracted but not provided for in the financial statements	305,611	-

22. LONG-TERM COMMITMENTS, INCLUDING OPERATING LEASES

Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Within one year	2,271	3,074
Between one and five years	3,974	6,245
	6,245	9,319

23. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

No related party transactions took place in the period of account.