

# Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy Trust



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



**Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy Trust**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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**Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy Trust**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Reference and Administrative Details**

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**Members**

Mr Mark Allwood  
Mrs Jo Benton  
Mrs Hannah Tipper  
Mr Nicholas Tuton  
Mr Steve Millman (appointed 7 September 2025)

Mrs Charlotte Senior\*, Chair\*  
Mr Neil Dance, Vice Chair  
Mr Mark Allwood (appointed 10 July 2025)  
Mrs Helen Booth\*  
Ms Sarah Bloomer (appointed 14 October 2024, resigned 24 October 2025)  
Mrs Alexandra Galan (appointed 2 September 2024)  
Mr Sundeep Grewal\*  
Mr Matthew Jeavons  
Mr Antony Maguire, Staff Governor  
Mr Stephen Millman (term ended 6 October 2025)  
Dr Barbara Minards\*, Accounting Officer and Headteacher\*  
Ms Manjit Nahal\*  
Mr Michael Overton  
Mrs Azra Rashid  
Ms Janet Redman\*  
Ms Shaistah Zeidan (term ended 25 November 2024)  
Ms Shazna Hannan (appointed 9 September 2025)

\*Members of Finance Committee

**Company registered  
number**

07543893

**Company name**

Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy Trust

**Principal and registered  
office**

Jockey Road  
Sutton Coldfield  
Birmingham  
B73 5PT

**Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy Trust**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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

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**Senior management  
team**

Dr. Barbara Minards, Headteacher  
Mr Neil Eaton, Deputy Headteacher  
Mrs Kaye Downing, Deputy Headteacher, started 1 September 2024  
Mr Douglas Thorp, Finance and Operation Director, Chief Financial Officer  
Mrs Samantha Hart, Assistant Headteacher  
Mrs Michelle Lucas, Assistant Headteacher  
Mr Mike Nott, Assistant Headteacher, left 28 April 2025

**Independent auditor**

Dains Audit Limited  
2 Chamberlain Square  
Paradise  
Birmingham  
B3 3AX

**Bankers**

Lloyds Bank Plc  
9 Birmingham Road  
Sutton Coldfield  
Birmingham  
B73 5PT

**Solicitors**

Browne Jacobson  
Victoria Square House  
Victoria Square  
Birmingham  
B2 4BU



**Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy Trust**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Trustees' Report**  
**For the Year Ended 31 August 2025**

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The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report, and a directors' report and strategic report under company law.

Established in 1929, Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls ("the School") has developed in both size and prestige and became an Academy Trust in 2011. The school is a thriving community of 1,215 students, celebrated for academic excellence, creativity, and enrichment opportunities. It is a positive, happy and purposeful learning environment in which staff and students are fully engaged. Our vision is for all to have a love of learning, a positive and resilient approach with a strong sense of community. Each individual will be encouraged to be aspirational, prepared for their future and inspired to make a difference.

Alongside our academic curriculum, we have an emphasis on Character Development. Through specific Personal Development lessons, tutor time activities, assemblies and our reward system, the character strengths 'Love of Learning, Positive and Resilient, Making Good Decisions, Integrity and Respect' are embedded throughout school life. In addition to the learning that takes place in lessons, students develop their skills through participating in House competitions, charity events and attending a wide variety of extra-curricular clubs and societies. Through the careers programme, which includes independent guidance, a careers fair, visits from numerous professionals and guest speakers, students are encouraged to have high aspirations and achieve their potential. Throughout their time at the school, students are supported to maintain their wellbeing, develop their understanding of others and cultivate skillsets to become well-rounded members and future leaders of a rapidly changing global society.

The single school Academy Trust has a capacity of 900 11-16 year old pupils. In the 2024 School Census, the school had a total enrollment of 1215 students, with 900 in years 7 to 11 and a further 315 in Sixth Form.

**Structure, governance and management**

**a. Constitution**

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

The Trustees of Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company operates as Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy Trust.

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

**b. Members' liability**

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

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

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**Structure, governance and management (continued)**

**c. Trustees' indemnities**

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. The scheme protects Members and Trustees from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy Trust business. The RPA provides cover up to £10,000,000 for such claims.

**d. Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees**

The Academy Trust shall have the following Trustees, as set out in its Articles of Association and funding agreement:

- The Members may appoint up to 15 Trustees;
- No more than one third of the total number of individuals appointed as Trustees shall be employees of the Academy Trust (including the Headteacher). The Board of Trustees shall make all necessary arrangements for, and determine all matters relating to, the election and removal of Staff Trustees;
- Parent Trustees shall be elected by parents and individuals exercising parental responsibility of registered students at the Academy Trust. A Parent Trustee must be a parent, or an individual exercising parental responsibility, of a registered student at the Academy Trust at the time when they are elected; and
- The Trustees may appoint Co-opted Trustees. The Trustees may not appoint an employee of the Academy Trust as a Co-opted Trustee, if thereby the number of Trustees who are employees of the Academy Trust (including the Headteacher) exceeds one third of the total number of Trustees.
- The Trustees shall make all necessary arrangements for and determine all matters relating to the election and removal of Staff Governors.

Trustees are appointed for a 4-year period, except that this time limit does not apply to the Headteacher 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 re-appointed or re-elected.

When appointing new Trustees, the Members and the Board of Trustees 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.

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

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**Structure, governance and management (continued)**

**e. Policies adopted for the induction and training of Trustees**

Trustees bring a variety of experience from a number of different backgrounds, not just in education, but also industry and commerce. Where necessary, additional training is provided or made available on charity, educational, legal, financial and any other matters relevant to the role of the Trustees. Trustees are provided with regular updates on available training. All Trustees are routinely involved with meetings, reports, plans and other information as necessary, to enable them to carry out their roles. Assistance and advice is always available from Academy Trust staff or professional advisors. The Trustees have access to the National Governance Association's learning resources, NGA Goldline support and "The Key for Governors".

**f. Organisational structure**

Members of the Academy Trust are a small body whose responsibility it is to have an oversight of the Academy Trust's affairs and to appoint Trustees.

The Trustees of the Academy Trust are the Board of Trustees, with whom ultimate responsibility and accountability for the day-to-day running of the Academy Trust lies.

The Board of Trustees has a strong focus on three core strategic functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction of the Academy Trust;
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the Academy Trust and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and
- Overseeing and ensuring effective financial performance of the Academy Trust.

In order to carry out its role efficiently and effectively, the detailed work of the Board of Trustees is delegated to and undertaken by several committees, which are sub-committees of the main Board of Trustees. In addition to attending the full Board of Trustees meetings, all Trustees sit on at least one sub-committee. The sub-committees report back to termly meetings of the Board of Trustees at which broader issues are discussed.

The Academy Trust is managed by seven members of staff in the Senior Leadership Team. This is led by the Headteacher and includes two Deputy Headteachers, three Assistant Headteachers and a Finance and Operations Director. One of the Deputy Headteachers is responsible for Curriculum and Assessment and the other for Student and Staff Development. The three Assistant Headteachers each have a specific responsibility: Student Support and Welfare; Personal Development and Careers; and Teaching and Learning. All staff appointments must be agreed with the Headteacher and although the Deputy Headteachers have some financial delegation of authority, ultimately all financial decisions must be agreed by the Headteacher, as Accounting Officer of the Academy Trust.

The Board of Trustees meets four 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 sub-committees of the Board of Trustees and other groups. It receives reports on various matters from each of the sub-committees and, where necessary, ratifies decisions made at Committee level. It monitors the activities of the sub-committees through the minutes of their meetings and through direct reporting from the elected Chair of each sub-committee. The Chair of the Board of Trustees also sits on each of the sub-committees. The Board of Trustees may from time to time establish working groups to perform specific tasks over a limited timescale.

**Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy Trust**  
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**Trustees' Report (continued)**  
**For the Year Ended 31 August 2025**

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**Structure, governance and management (continued)**

There are six sub-committees of the Board of Trustees as follows:

- Finance
- Operations
- Welfare and Access
- Curriculum
- Audit and Risk
- Pay

Each sub-committee has its own terms of reference detailing the responsibilities discharged to it. The following decisions are reserved for the full Board of Trustees:

- Consider any proposals for changes to the status or constitution of the Academy Trust and its sub-committee structure;
- Appoint or remove the Chair and / or Vice Chair and statutory Link Governors; and
- Appoint the Headteacher.

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

The pay of the Senior Leadership Team is overseen and approved by the Pay Committee (a sub-committee of the Board of Trustees).

The Headteacher, in accordance with the Pay Policy, makes annual recommendations on the salary of the Senior Leadership Team to the Pay Committee.

For the Headteacher, a sub-group of the Pay Committee (the Headteacher Appraisal Panel) reviews the performance and salary of the Headteacher in the autumn term of each academic year, with the involvement of an external advisor. Decisions regarding salary reflect the Headteacher Appraisal Panel's views based on the outcomes of the annual performance review.

The Trustees consider the Board of Trustees and the Senior Leadership 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. All Trustees give 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 11 of the financial statements.

**Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy Trust**  
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**Trustees' Report (continued)**  
**For the Year Ended 31 August 2025**

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**Structure, governance and management (continued)**

**h. Trade union facility time**

**Relevant union officials**

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the year	<b>3</b>
Full-time equivalent employee number	<b>3</b>

**Percentage of time spent on facility time**

<b>Percentage of time</b>	<b>Number of employees</b>
0%	<b>3</b>
1%-50%	-
51%-99%	-
100%	-

**Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time** **£000**

Total cost of facility time	-
Total pay bill	<b>6,487</b>
Percentage of total pay bill spent on facility time	- %

**Paid trade union activities**

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

The Academy Trust was established as a standalone company and does not have any external sponsors.

The Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Charity ("the Charity") is a separate entity that is affiliated to the school. Its charitable objective is to "provide special benefits for the benefit of and for pupils of the Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls". Any money raised by the Charity is controlled by the Trustees of the Charity and transferred to the school to spend on agreed items and causes, in accordance with the charitable objective.

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

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**Objectives and activities**

**a. Objects and aims**

The Academy Trust's specific object, as set out in its Articles of Association, is restricted to the following:

- 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 a school offering a broad and balanced curriculum.

The Academy Trust fulfils this object through the operation of the school, providing selective entry education for pupils between the ages of 11 and 19.

**b. Objectives, strategies and activities**

The key priorities for the year are contained in the Academy Trust's School Development Plan, which is available from the Headteacher. The key activities of the Academy Trust for the year ended 31 August 2025 were focused as follows:

**1. High Quality Teaching and Learning**

- Develop leadership throughout the organisation
- Cultivate an outward facing approach and continue to build networking opportunities
- Plan for the New Build and develop a fundraising strategy to achieve it

**2. Aspirational Students**

- All staff use and apply the whole school Aspirational Students' Principles
- All students benefit from a broad range of experiences
- Develop opportunities for all students to build skills for life beyond school

**3. Inspirational Environment**

- Ensure students achieve 80% A\*-B, 55% A\*/A at A-level
- All teaching staff to be involved with CPD, drop-in processes and feedback discussions to develop pedagogy
- Ensure all students are actively engaged and participating in their learning to maximise their academic and personal growth
- Review and embed assessment and reporting processes
- Ensure all students develop a good understanding of each of the 6 Personal Development themes during their 7-year journey in school

**Objectives and activities (continued)**

**c. Public benefit**

The Academy Trust aims to advance, for the public benefit, education in the West Midlands region and the wider region, offering a broad curriculum and an excellent educational environment for its pupils. The Academy Trust also allows use of its facilities for recreational and other leisure activities 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 Academy Trust continues its longstanding commitment to supporting a wide range of charitable causes. Examples include non-uniform days raising money various good causes such as 'The Teddy Trust', Breast Cancer Now', 'BBC Children in Need', 'Read for Good' and 'Young Minds', raising almost £10,000 throughout the year.

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.



*School Charity Day celebrating the school's culture Spring 2025*

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

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**Strategic report**

**Achievements and performance**

The Academy Trust continues to evolve and to adapt to the ever-changing educational environment. The Academy Trust has been in operation since 2011 and is in its 13th year of operation since conversion to an Academy Trust. The total number of pupils in the year ended 31 August 2025 was 1,215.

The Academy Trust is committed to continual improvement, which is achieved in a number of ways, including working with an external School Improvement Partner to quality assure our self-evaluation, data analysis and development planning. There is a comprehensive continual professional development programme in place for all staff along with regular lesson observations and feedback discussions for teaching staff. The particular achievements and performance of the Academy Trust during the year ended 31 August 2025 were as follows in addition to high levels of academic achievement:

- Completing a 5 year program of critical repairs to the School's infrastructure mainly by prior year Condition Improvement Fund ("CIF") grants.
- Successfully completing the replacement of the heating distribution within the main building of the School in Winter 2024.
- A "Pre-Loved" uniform shop run by the Parents Association has raised over £5,000 from more than 350 orders since October 2022, making second hand uniform available to students and their families.

**a. Key performance indicators**

**GCSE and A-level Results:** Students performed highly in their external examinations in Summer 2025. At GCSE: 83% of the grades awarded were grades 7-9 and 64% were grades 8 or 9. At A-level 77% of grades awarded were A\*-B, 53% were A\*/A with 21% A\* grades.

The Academy Trust continues to celebrate the wide range of destinations of our Year 13 students and this year the cohort has gone on to 39 different courses at 33 institutions. The vast majority of students secured their first-choice place, including 8 students going to Oxbridge. Five students secured apprenticeships.

During the year the School community has enjoyed various musical concerts, success in regional sporting competitions and a variety of extracurricular clubs. Over 160 students from across the year groups participated in the annual school show as members of the cast, crew or band. In addition to four fantastic performances of 'Frozen JR.', the dress rehearsal was attended by several local primary schools as part of the School's widening access programme. During our Literacy Festival we invited bestselling neurodivergent author Elle McNicoll into school to speak with our students. Her book 'A Kind of Spark' was our whole school read for this year. She shared hilarious and uplifting stories of her childhood and her experiences as a writer with autism, and tales from the making of the 'A Kind of Spark' award winning television show. She signed books for students throughout lunchtime.

We also hosted bestselling author Kiran Millwood Hargrave for virtual sessions about her writing journey. Our Year 7 students look at passages from her book 'A Girl of Ink and Stars' in their English lessons, so this was particularly valuable. Throughout the festival we also held a book bake off competition and a book character dress up day, with the proceeds from both raising money for the 'Read for Good' charity. We also held book themed craft sessions at lunchtime, a television screening of Death on the Nile, a scavenger hunt and an art competition.



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

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Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)



*School Show 2025 - Frozen.*

Almost 300 Year 9 and 10 students achieved their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award, successfully completing their volunteering, physical and skills activities in addition to their expedition. 16 Year 12 students demonstrated their resilience by undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Expedition and are continuing their commitment to completing the other three components of the Award.

**Financial performance:** The Academy Trust uses a number of benchmarks or performance indicators to evaluate its financial performance and drive budgetary control and monitoring. The Board of Trustees is satisfied that the Academy Trust has robust financial management processes in place, which is reflected in its strong financial performance during the period.

A key financial performance indicator for the Academy 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 £3,169,000 (2024: £2,832,000), which is after transfers of £207,000 (2024: £184,000) 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.

The majority of the Academy Trust's funding is based on pupil numbers, another key performance indicator. As noted earlier in this report, pupil numbers at the most recent census were 1,215; the same as the prior year.

**Staffing costs:** The percentage of total staff costs to total educational grant funding (being GAG funding plus other operating educational grants from the Department for Education ('DfE') for the year was 82% (2024: 80%), while the percentage of staff costs to total costs (excluding depreciation and Local Government Pension Scheme FRS102 pension cost charges) was 80% (2024: 80%).

**b. Going concern**

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

**Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy Trust**  
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**Trustees' Report (continued)**  
**For the Year Ended 31 August 2025**

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**Strategic report (continued)**

**Financial review**

The majority of the Academy Trust's income is received from the DfE in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE during the year ended 31 August 2025 and the associated expenditure of these grants are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

For the year ended 31 August 2025, the Academy Trust's total income (excluding capital grants) was £8,660,000 (2024: £8,191,000) while the total expenditure (excluding depreciation and LGPS FRS102 pension cost charges) was £8,033,000 (2024: £7,484,000), resulting in a net operating surplus for the year of £627,000 (2024: £707,000).

This surplus, which had been expected by the Trustees, has caused an increase to the Academy Trust's reserves. The balance of reserves at 31 August 2025, excluding the restricted fixed asset funds and LGPS liability fund was £3,169,000 (2024: £2,832,000).

The net book value of fixed assets at 31 August 2025 was £15,993,000. The fixed assets held by the Academy Trust are used exclusively for providing education and associated support services (including Lettings) which generate extra income for the pupils of the Academy Trust.

Included within the Academy Trust's balance sheet at year end is a defined benefit pension scheme asset of £Nil (2024: liability of £227,000), which arises from the deficit in the Local Government Pension Scheme ("LGPS") that is attributable to the Academy Trust. Further details regarding the deficit in the LGPS at 31 August 2025 are set out in note 25 to the financial statements.

The key financial policies reviewed and adopted during the period included the Finance Policy, which lays out the framework for the Academy Trust's financial management, including financial responsibilities of the Board of Trustees, Headteacher, managers, budget holders and other staff, as well as the delegated authorities for spending. The other financial policies reviewed and adopted during the period included:

- Charging Policy;
- Governor Expenses; and
- Statement of Financial Reserves, Investment and Deprecation.

The Academy Trust was also successful in obtaining the following funding from external sources:

- Completing pipe replacement projected in the main building, with £1.1m funded by CIF;
- Lettings in the School with the help of a third-party letting agent, generating in the order of £38k of income. This is expected to grow in future years;
- £30k of grant income from the Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust to update IT equipment for students;
- Raising over £120k in the 2024-25 and over £278k since the start of 2022-23 by investing in a wide range of accounts through Lloyds Bank and the Flagstone investment platform in line with the Trust's investment policy to maximise interest from balances held by the Trust; and
- The school charity has also donated around £25k to the school including the purchase of a new school minibus and new wall art to promote the school's values.



*Wall Art celebrating the schools values funded by the School Charity*

Pay and non-pay costs were in line with the budget.

The Academy Trust invested significantly in the estate and assets during the year, including:

- Completing a program of refurbishment works in the school that started in 2019 to modernise key parts of the main building such as heating systems and roof at a cost of over £3.5m, with £3m coming from the Condition Improvement Fund (CIF).
- Investing in IT equipment and technology to ensure students and staff have access to up-to-date resources.



*Photo showing new plant following replacement of school heating system*

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

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Environmental Sustainability

Over recent years following refurbishment of key infrastructure, the School has significantly reduced its carbon footprint and its journey to net zero. Gas usage has fallen by 60% from 2020-21 to 2024-25 and electricity has fallen by 14% in the same period. It is expected gas usage will decrease further with the new Heating Distribution network and installation of an air source heat pump.

The school has further invested in sustainability by upgrading all lights in the School to LED. An Environment Committee led by Sixth Form students in the Senior Student Leadership Team meets regularly with the Finance and Operations Director and promotes sustainable behavior to students such as through events in Environment week.

**a. Reserves policy**

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

The Trustees have determined the appropriate level of operating reserves to be 8% of income from the General Allocation Grant and 16-19 funding from the DfE – approximately £622,000 in 2024-25, (2024: £560,000).

The majority of the Academy Trust's income is received from the DfE in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes.

The Board of Trustees consider it appropriate to maintain a minimum amount of ongoing reserves at this level for the following specific purposes:

- In case of income reduction due to changes in Government funding;
- To hold for unforeseen emergencies;
- To cover ongoing working capital requirements, including one month's salary.

Reserves kept above the minimum will be used to invest in the upkeep of the estate and possible new building and estate developments, e.g. a New Build for Sixth Form on the front car park.

Reserve funds will be used as soon as practicable and following receipt of any other designated funds from external organisations.

The Academy Trust's level of operating reserves at 31 August 2025 was £3,169,000 (2024: £2,832,000), which is made up of restricted income reserves of £2,080,000 (2024: £1,969,000) and unrestricted funds of £1,089,000 (2024: £863,000).

Although the current level of operating reserves is above the minimum target level identified above, the Trustees' expectation is that these excess reserves will be utilised over the next few years to fund the ongoing development of the Academy Trust, including the development of a new building and the need to fund ongoing capital projects.

**Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy Trust**  
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**Trustees' Report (continued)**  
**For the Year Ended 31 August 2025**

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The value of the restricted fixed asset fund at 31 August 2025 is £15,993,000 (2024: £15,829,000), which is represented by the fixed assets that are used exclusively for providing education and associated support services (such as Lettings) which generate extra income for the benefit of the pupils of the Academy Trust, and the balance of unspent capital grants to be used on future capital expenditure. These funds can only be realised by disposing of the associated tangible fixed assets. The majority of the assets relate to buildings which are used for the Academy Trust's primary objective of delivering education. The Academy Trust does not plan to sell the site or transfer ownership of these assets and cannot do so without the permission of the Secretary of State for Education.

The pension reserve fund had an asset balance at 31 August 2025 of £Nil (2024: deficit of £227,000), which represents the asset in the LGPS at the balance sheet date. The effect of a LGPS deficit is that Academy Trust is required to make additional pension contributions over a number of years in order to fund the deficit. These additional pension contributions will be funded from the Academy Trust's annual recurring income, which may significantly impact its ability to continue to deliver its educational outcomes with the available public funding it receives. 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.

**b. Investment policy**

The Trustees on behalf of the Academy Trust have powers to make decisions about investments, as there will be different times throughout the academic year when large cash balances are being held. The Academy Trust will not invest any funds in any accounts or ventures that could endanger the investment balance. The Academy Trust's Articles of Association allow for Academy Trust funds to be invested for furtherance of objects after obtaining the advice from a financial expert as the Trustees consider necessary. The Articles state that:

- The investment policy is set down in writing for the financial expert by the Trustees in section "Investment Principles" below;
- Every transaction is reported promptly to the Trustees;
- The performance of investments is reviewed regularly with the Trustees
- The Trustees are entitled to cancel the delegation arrangement at any time
- The investment delegation arrangements are reviewed at least once per year
- All payments due to the financial expert are on a scale or at a level which is agreed in advance and are notified promptly to the Trustees on receipt; and
- The financial expert must not do anything outside the powers of the Trustees.

**Investment principles**

The Academy Trust only invests funds in low risk and easily-accessible accounts.

Risk is managed through diversification of investments, ensuring that the security of funds takes precedence over revenue maximisation.

The Finance and Operations Director will review interest rates and compare them with other investment opportunities annually.

Cash flow and current account balances will be monitored regularly by the Finance and Operations Director to ensure immediate financial commitments can be met and that the current account has adequate balances to meet forthcoming commitments.

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

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When there are funds surplus to immediate cash requirements in the current account, the Trustees will consider transferring these to an account with a higher interest rate.

Investments will normally be for a fixed term of no more than 6 months, unless there is a clear business case, that is agreed with by the Finance Committee, for longer-term investment that would benefit the Academy Trust. Investments will only be made in UK banking institutions who have a strong credit rating and are regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

A maximum of £85,000 will be held with any single bank or financial institution, except where the institution is a well-known UK bank rated at least 'A-' by Fitch Solutions. In such cases, funds may be placed with 'A-' rated banks up to a limit of £2 million for a maximum period of six months using the School's investment platform (Flagstone).

All other funds will be held within Lloyds Bank, where the Schools Main Account is held.

Funds, and any interest earned on those funds, will be automatically reinvested unless money is required for immediate or anticipated expenditure and that decision recorded.

**c. 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 educational, health and safety, safeguarding and school trips, and in relation to the control of finances and strategical development of the Academy Trust. They have introduced systems, including operational procedures and internal financial controls to minimise risk and have agreed a Risk Management Strategy and Risk Management Plan, which incorporates a Risk Register. The Risk Management Plan is regularly reviewed at least annually by the Audit and Risk Committee (more frequently in light of any new information).

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

Educational

The continuing success of the Academy Trust is dependent on maintaining outstanding exam results and an excellent reputation.

Safeguarding and child protection

The Trustees ensure that high standards of safeguarding and child protection are adhered to. This is done through:

- Clear safeguarding and child protection policy that is regularly reviewed and robustly implemented, including regular training for everyone in the School community;
- Health and Safety policy and procedures;
- Staff Code of Conduct; and
- Student Behaviour for Learning Policy.

**Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy Trust**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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

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Financial

The Academy Trust has considerable reliance on continued Government funding through the DfE. In the year, approximately 97% of the Academy Trust's income was ultimately Government funded. Whilst this level of funding 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.

Continuing increases in employment costs, such as national insurance increasing in the year and pension costs associated with both the Teachers' Pension Scheme and the LGPS, general inflation will also continue to place significant pressure on the Academy Trust's financial position and its ability to invest in the state.

Monthly management accounts are circulated to the Chair of Governors and the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee. The Trustees examine the financial health of the Academy Trust every half term via the Finance Committee, reviewing performance against budgets and overall expenditure by means of regular update reports.

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.

The Trustees recognise that the LGPS deficit represents a significant potential liability to the Academy Trust. 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 liability is minimised.

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 welfare, development and training of staff, as well as ensuring there is clear succession planning. The Academy Trust is also conscious of staff well-being and ensures staff have access to appropriate support (for example communicating the availability of mentoring services). The Trust is aware that the pay award for support staff effective from April 2025 will be processed in the next financial year and has made a provision within the accounts for this. The Academy Trust is continuously updating financial models to reflect likely staff cost increases to ensure it remains a going concern.

New Build

The Trust is embarking on a de-risking exercise on a project to begin construction of a new building in the next 12 months. It is anticipated this project will cost in the region of £4m, although plans are still in development.

Cyber Security

The Academy Trust continues to invest in improved security measures and procedures in order to deal with current and future risks relating to cyber security. The Academy Trust annually obtains Cyber Security Essentials accreditation, which was also subject to an internal audit review this year. The Academy Trust has also invested in an online training package in relation to Cyber Security which is mandatory for all staff and trustees.



**Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy Trust**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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

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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 and statutory returns. 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 (see below).

Fraud and mismanagement of funds

The Trustees have performed a programme of work aimed at checking and reviewing the financial systems and records as required by the Academies Trust Handbook, led by a qualified Internal Auditor. All finance staff receive training to keep them up to date with financial practice requirements and to develop their skills in this area.

**Plans for future periods**

The Academy Trust's School Development Plan for 2025-26 is:

**1. Inspirational Environment**

- a. Empower staff to confidently embrace innovation and lead positive change together
- b. Advance the development of new build with input from the school community
- c. All staff access high quality CPD that is relevant to their career stage

**2. Aspirational Students**

- a. Create a cohesive 7-year journey that builds aspirational, resilient, and well-rounded students
- b. Develop Careers provision in line with new Gatsby Benchmarks
- c. Middle Leaders collaborate strategically to promote student achievement and engagement

**3. High Quality Teaching and Learning**

- a. Students achieve 80% A\*-B, 55% A\*/A at A-level and 87% 9-7 at GCSE
- b. Teachers focus on enhancing their subject specific pedagogy and curriculum development





**Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy Trust**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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

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**Funds held as custodian on behalf of others**

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

The Academy Trust does however hold Post-16 Bursary Funds on behalf of the DfE, which are distributed to students as required and in line with the terms and conditions of the funds.

**Disclosure of information to auditors**

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

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

**Auditors**

The auditors, Dains Audit Limited, have indicated their willingness to continue in office. The designated Trustees will propose a motion reappointing the auditors at a meeting of the Trustees.

The Trustees' Report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 15 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



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**Mrs Charlotte Senior\***  
Chair of Trustees



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**Dr Barbara Minards\***  
Accounting Officer

**Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy Trust**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Governance Statement**

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**Scope of responsibility**

As Trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that the 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.

As Trustees, we have reviewed and taken account of the guidance in the DfE's Governance Handbook and Competency Framework for Governance, as well as the Academy Trust Handbook.

The Board of Trustees 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 the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. The Accounting Officer is also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

**Governance**

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met 4 times during the year, in addition to meetings of the various sub-committees.

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

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Ms Sarah Bloomer	3	3
Mrs Helen Booth*	3	4
Mr Neil Dance, Vice Chair	2	4
Mrs Alexandra Galan	3	4
Mr Sundeep Grewal*	2	4
Mr Matthew Jeavons	4	4
Mr Antony Maguire, Staff Governor	3	4
Mr Stephen Millman	3	4
Dr Barbara Minards*, Accounting Officer and Headteacher*	4	4
Ms Manjit Nahal*	3	4
Mr Michael Overton	1	4
Mrs Azra Rashid	3	4
Ms Janet Redman*	4	4
Mrs Charlotte Senior*, Chair*	4	4
Ms Shaistah Zeidan	0	1

The Board of Trustees reviewed the Academy Trust's governance structure during the year to evaluate its impact and effectiveness. The Board of Trustees has a wide range of skills that contribute to the successful governance of the Academy Trust and the Trustees are satisfied that the structure currently in place is appropriate and effective for governance of the Academy Trust.

All Board of Trustee meetings for 2024-25 and sub-committee meetings have taken place as scheduled in person.

**Governance Statement (continued)**

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**Governance (continued)**

All Board of Trustee meetings for 2024-25 and sub-committee meetings have taken place as scheduled in person.

An audit of skills and training is undertaken formally every year and is monitored informally by the Chair of the Board of Trustees throughout the year as the need arises for additional skills, in order to ensure appropriate expertise and address and perceived areas of need. The recruitment of new Trustees is undertaken with the skills requirements in mind, to ensure that the Board of Trustees has a breadth and depth of expertise and experience appropriate to its core functions and responsibilities. Ongoing consideration is also given to succession requirements to ensure ongoing effectiveness of the Board.

The term of office of two Parent Governors came to an end during the year, one of whom was appointed as a Community Governor for a further term of office. A new Community Governor was appointed with specific skills to strengthen the Board and plan for future succession, and a former Community Governor with specific skills and experience in procurement and building projects was co-opted as a Trustee to provide additional support with the planned building project. A new Parent Governor was also elected during the year.

Regular updates and data are provided to sub-committees by relevant members of staff (for example: Finance and Operations Director and Deputy Headteachers). In addition, the Curriculum Committee receives a regular presentation from a different Head of Department to update them on current issues, developments and initiatives relevant to that academic department. The Welfare and Access Committee also continued to hear presentations from pastoral staff to update them on current issues, developments and initiatives relevant to the pastoral provision within the School.

In addition to sub-committee meetings there is a regular dialogue between Trustees and the Academy Trust, via meetings, between the Headteacher and the Chair of Trustees, between specific members of staff and Link Governors, and/or individuals offering other specific skills or expertise.

The Trustees consider that they are kept well-informed with good quality data and information, and this, together with the breadth of skills and experience of individual Trustees, enables the Board of Trustees to provide a high degree of challenge and support to the Academy Trust. The Board of Trustees meets at least four times a year with responsibility delegated to sub-committees who act on behalf of the Board of Trustees as detailed below. These committees report back to the main Board of Trustees termly.

The Headteacher attends all sub-committee meetings during the year, and it was agreed that the Chair of Governors would continue to sit formally on all sub-committees for 2024-25, to ensure oversight across and connectivity between all of the sub-committees.

The **Finance 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 and that the requirements of Academy Trust Handbook are met.

The key priority of the Finance Committee during the year was to maintain the school's financial health and continue to investigate and act to maximise income generation, specifically in respect of the proposed New Build.

**Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy Trust**  
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**Governance Statement (continued)**

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**Governance (continued)**

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mrs Sarah Bloomer	4	5
Mrs Helen Booth	6	6
Mr Sundeep Grewal	6	6
Dr B Minards	6	6
Mrs Manjit Nahal	6	6
Ms Janet Redman	5	6
Mrs Charlotte Senior - Chair	5	6
Ms Shaistah Zeidan	0	1

The **Audit Committee** is also a sub-committee of the Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to maintain an oversight of the Academy Trust's governance, risk management, internal control and value for money framework. It reports its findings annually to the Board of Trustees and the Accounting Officer as a critical element of the Academy Trust's annual reporting requirements.

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

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mrs Sarah Bloomer	1	3
Mrs Helen Booth - Chair	4	4
Mr Sundeep Grewal	4	4
Mrs Manjit Nahal	4	4
Ms Janet Redman	3	4
Mrs Charlotte Senior	4	4
Ms Shaistah Zeidan	0	1

The Audit and Risk Committee reviewed reports presented in relation to internal scrutiny in the following areas:

- School trips; and
- IT Cyber Essentials.

The reports summarised the reviews undertaken in respect of the Academy Trust's systems of internal control and the recommended areas for action to address any control weaknesses identified.

The **Operations Committee** is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. The Operations Committee is responsible for all matters relating to the operational running of the Academy Trust's land and buildings, as well as oversight of the Academy Trust's catering provision and the Academy Trust's digital requirements.

**Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy Trust**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Governance Statement (continued)**

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**Governance (continued)**

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

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr Neil Dance	3	3
Mr Sundeep Grewal	2	3
Mr Matt Jeavons	3	3
Dr Barbara Minards	3	3
Mr Michael Overton - Chair	2	3
Ms Azra Rashid	1	3
Mrs Charlotte Senior	2	3

In this financial year the Operations Committee focused on overseeing the implementation of the School's capital plan, in particular the completion of the heating distribution network project, health and safety, continuing to develop a comprehensive digital strategy that includes teaching and learning and infrastructure requirements and overseeing the school's sustainability initiatives.

The **Curriculum Committee** is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to ensure compliance with the statutory requirements of the curriculum for Years 7-13 including Personal Development and ensuring it is balanced and broadly based, promoting spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils of the school and of society, as well as preparing pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

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

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Ms Alexandra Galan	3	3
Mr Antony Maguire	3	3
Mr Stephen Millman - Chair	3	3
Dr Barbara Minards	3	3
Ms Manjit Nahal	2	3
Mr Michael Overton	2	3
Mrs Charlotte Senior	2	3
Ms Shaistah Zeidan	0	1

The curriculum committee played a key role in guiding and supporting the development of the school's assessment practices, curriculum design, and the implementation of a new trips policy and procedure.

The **Welfare and Access Committee** is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. It is responsible for ensuring compliance with all current guidance and legislation on the welfare of staff and pupils, together with ensuring the Academy Trust's compliance with child protection and safeguarding regulations. It also has oversight of matters relating to staff Continuing Professional Development and appraisal and Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) provision within the Academy Trust, as well as overseeing all access and inclusion matters.

**Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy Trust**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Governance Statement (continued)**

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**Governance (continued)**

Attendance at meetings of the Welfare and Access Committee during the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mrs Sarah Bloomer	2	3
Mr Neil Dance	3	3
Ms Alexandra Galan	3	3
Mr Matt Jeavons - Chair	3	3
Mr Antony Maguire	3	3
Mr Stephen Millman	3	3
Dr Barbara Minards	3	3
Ms Manjit Nahal	2	3
Ms Janet Redman	2	3
Mrs Charlotte Senior	1	3

The Welfare and Access Committee refined attendance and punctuality systems. It also embedded the pastoral support system which provides a bespoke and systematic offer of support for students and their mental health, with regular reports from the link governors for Safeguarding, SEND and PD keeping trustees informed of School procedures in relation to these areas.

The **Pay Committee** is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. It is responsible for matters relating to remuneration of staff, the Headteacher's objectives and performance and undertaking an annual review of staff salaries.

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

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr Neil Dance - Chair	1	1
Mrs Helen Booth	1	1
Ms Alexandra Galan	1	1
Mrs Charlotte Senior	1	1

**Governance Statement (continued)**

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**(continued)**

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

The Accounting Officer considers how the 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 where available. The Accounting Officer for the Academy Trust has delivered value for money during the year by:

- Undertaking procurements rounds for catering and a major capital project around the replacement of the heating distribution network in the main building;
- Holding the Finance and Operations Director to account;
- Maximising returns from interest rates; and
- Working closely with the Finance and Operations Director and Deputy Headteacher: Curriculum and Assessment to ensure there is an appropriate staffing model.

**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 the Academy 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.

**Governance Statement (continued)**

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**The risk and control framework**

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

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

The Board of Trustees has decided not to appoint an external auditor for the purpose of internal scrutiny. However, the Audit and Risk Committee appointed Trustees Helen Booth (a qualified Internal Auditor) and Manjit Nahal as "Reviewers" to carry out a programme of internal scrutiny checks during the year ended 31 August 2025.

The Reviewers' role included giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy Trust's financial and other systems. In particular, the checks carried out in the current year included:

- Educational Visits Policy; IT Cyber Essentials; and
- Monthly review of management accounts.

The appointed Reviewers reported to the Board of Trustees through the Audit and Risk Committee on the operation of the systems of control that had been the subject of the check, and on the of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities. A short annual summary report is prepared for the Board of Trustees outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the Audit and Risk Committee consider actions and assess year on year progress, which will be filed with the Department for Education in accordance with the Academies Trust Handbook.

The Reviewers have 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.

**Conflicts of interest**

The Academy Trust manages conflicts of interest in two ways:

- Trustees annually declare all interests on a Register of Interests, which are then updated if any changes occur and Trustees are reminded of this at every meeting. This is published on the School website and made available to finance staff;
- Trustees are also asked to declare all potential conflicts of interest in agenda items at the start of each Board of Trustees or sub-committee meeting. Where any conflicts are declared, appropriate action is taken to ensure the conflict does not impact discussions or decisions taken by the Board of Trustees or sub-committee.
- Trust staff complete a Register of Interests annually. They are instructed if they have any conflicts to speak with the Finance and Operations Director.



**Governance Statement (continued)**

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**Review of effectiveness**

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

- The work of the Reviewers appointed by the Audit and Risk Committee;
- The work of the external auditor;
- The financial management and governance self-assessment process, including the School Resource Management Self-Assessment Tool; and
- The work of the Senior Leadership Team 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 Audit and Risk Committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

**Conclusion**

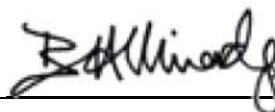
Based on the advice of the audit and risk committee and the accounting officer, the board of trustees is of the opinion that the academy trust has an adequate and effective framework for governance, risk management and control.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 15 December 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



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**Mrs Charlotte Senior**  
Chair of Trustees



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**Dr. Barbara Minards**  
Accounting Officer

**Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy Trust**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance**

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As accounting officer of Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy 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 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.



**Dr. Barbara Minards**

Accounting Officer

Date: 15 December 2025

**Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy Trust**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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

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The Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction published by the Education and Skills 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 judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

The Trustees are responsible for ensuring that in its conduct and operation the charitable company applies financial and other controls, which conform with the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring grants received from ESFA/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 15 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



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**Mrs Charlotte Senior**  
Chair of Trustees

**Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy Trust**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Independent Auditors' Report on the financial statements to the Members of Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy Trust**

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**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy 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 Auditors' 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.

**Independent Auditors' Report on the financial statements to the Members of Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy Trust (continued)**

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**Other information**

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

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

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

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the 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.

**Independent Auditors' Report on the financial statements to the Members of Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy Trust (continued)**

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**Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, 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.

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.

**Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

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

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

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

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

**Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy Trust**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Independent Auditors' Report on the financial statements to the Members of Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy Trust (continued)**

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

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

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

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships; tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in Note 3 were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions;

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

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

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](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our Auditors' 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 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 Academy Trust and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

*Dains Audit Limited*

**Mark Gurney FCCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)**

for and on behalf of

**Dains Audit Limited**

Statutory Auditor

Chartered Accountants

Birmingham

15 December 2025

**Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy Trust**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education**

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In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 12 October 2022 and further to the requirements of the Department for Education (DfE) as included in the extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts 2024 to 2025, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether anything has come to our attention that would suggest, in all material respects, the expenditure disbursed and income received by Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy Trust during the year 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 have not been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy 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 Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy 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 Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

**Respective responsibilities of Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant**

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 25 May 2011 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2024, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

**Approach**

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

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

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

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



**Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy Trust**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education (continued)**

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**Conclusion**

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

*Dains Audit Limited*

**Dains Audit Limited**

Statutory Auditor  
Chartered Accountants

Date: 15 December 2025

Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy 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 £000	Restricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2024 £000
	Note					
<b>Income from:</b>						
Donations and capital grants	4	33	-	(22)	11	1,137
Other trading activities		116	30	-	147	125
Investments	7	121	-	-	121	109
Charitable activities		391	7,969	-	8,359	7,943
<b>Total income</b>		<b>661</b>	<b>7,999</b>	<b>(22)</b>	<b>8,638</b>	<b>9,314</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Charitable activities		435	7,598	481	8,514	7,870
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>435</b>	<b>7,598</b>	<b>481</b>	<b>8,514</b>	<b>7,870</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>226</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>(503)</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>1,444</b>
Transfers between funds	18	-	(207)	207	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)</b>		<b>226</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>(296)</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>1,444</b>
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses):</b>						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	25	-	979	-	979	162
Pension surplus not recognised	25	-	(835)	-	(835)	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>226</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>(296)</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>1,606</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>						
Total funds brought forward		863	1,742	16,289	18,894	17,288
Net movement in funds		226	338	(296)	268	1,606
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>1,089</b>	<b>2,080</b>	<b>15,993</b>	<b>19,162</b>	<b>18,894</b>

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

The notes on pages 39 to 67 form part of these financial statements.

Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy Trust

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

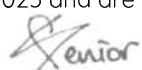
Registered number: 07543893

Balance Sheet

As at 31 August 2025

	Note	2025 £000	2024 £000
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	14	15,993	15,829
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	15	292	868
Investments	16	2,996	2,545
Cash at bank and in hand		433	775
		<u>3,721</u>	<u>4,188</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(552)	(896)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>3,169</u>	<u>3,292</u>
<b>Net assets excluding pension asset / liability</b>		<u>19,162</u>	<u>19,121</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme asset / liability	25	-	(227)
<b>Total net assets</b>		<u><u>19,162</u></u>	<u><u>18,894</u></u>
<b>Funds of the Academy Trust</b>			
<b>Restricted funds:</b>			
Fixed asset funds	18	15,993	16,289
Restricted income funds	18	2,080	1,969
Pension reserve	18	-	(227)
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	18	<u>18,073</u>	<u>18,031</u>
Unrestricted funds	18	<u>1,089</u>	<u>863</u>
<b>Total funds</b>		<u><u>19,162</u></u>	<u><u>18,894</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 36 to 67 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 15 December 2025 and are signed on their behalf, by:



Mrs Charlotte Senior\*

Chair of Trustees

**Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy Trust**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**For the Year Ended 31 August 2025**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>2025 £000</b>	<b>2024 £000</b>
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net cash provided by operating activities	20	<b>656</b>	388
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>	21	<b>(537)</b>	113
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>		<b>119</b>	501
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		<b>3,320</b>	2,819
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	22, 23	<b>3,439</b>	3,320

The notes on pages 39 to 67 form part of these financial statements

**Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy Trust**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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

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**1. General information**

The Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated in the United Kingdom and registered in England and Wales. The registered number and address of the registered address is given on page 1. The principal activities of the company are set out in the Trustees' Report.

**2. 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.

**2.1 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 (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by DfE, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

**2.2 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.

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

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2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.3 Income

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

- **Grants**

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

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

- **Donations**

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

- **Other income**

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

2.4 Expenditure

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

- **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.

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

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**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.5 Interest receivable**

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Academy Trust; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

**2.6 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.

**2.7 Tangible fixed assets**

Assets costing £5,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

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

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

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**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.7 Tangible fixed assets (continued)**

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Long-term leasehold property	- 2% (50 years)
Long-term leasehold land	- over life of the lease
Furniture and equipment	- 10-33% (3-10 years)
Computer equipment	- 33.3% (3 years)

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.

**2.8 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.

**2.9 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.

**2.10 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.



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

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**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.11 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 17. 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.

**2.12 Operating leases**

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

**2.13 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 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 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 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.

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

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**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.13 Pensions (continued)**

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.

**2.14 Agency arrangements**

The Academy Trust distributes 16-19 Bursary funds to students as an agent for the DfE. Payments received from the DfE and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the Statement of Financial Activities as the Academy Trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds.

The Academy Trust can use up to 5% of the allocation towards its own administration costs and this is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities. The funds received, paid and any balances held at period end are disclosed in Note 29.

**2.15 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.

**3. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment**

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.

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

3. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment (continued)

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 25, 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.

Tangible fixed assets are depreciated over their economic useful lives taking into account residual value 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 classification of expenditure between restricted and unrestricted funds is deemed as a critical area of judgment 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.

4. Income from donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000
Donations	33	-	33
Capital Grants	-	(22)	(22)
	<u>33</u>	<u>(22)</u>	<u>11</u>

Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy Trust  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

4. Income from donations and capital grants (continued)

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2024 £000
Donations	13	-	13
Capital Grants	-	1,123	1,123
	<u>13</u>	<u>1,123</u>	<u>1,136</u>

5. Funding for the Academy Trust's charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000
<b>Educational activities</b>			
<b>DfE grants</b>			
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	7,261	<b>7,261</b>
Other DfE grants			
Pupil Premium	-	125	<b>125</b>
Teachers pension grant	-	256	<b>256</b>
Other DfE Group grants	-	286	<b>286</b>
	<u>-</u>	<u>7,928</u>	<u><b>7,928</b></u>
<b>Other income from the Academy Trust's educational activities</b>	391	29	<b>420</b>
<b>COVID-19 additional funding (DfE)</b>			
Catch-up Premium	-	12	<b>12</b>
	<u>-</u>	<u>12</u>	<u><b>12</b></u>
	<u>391</u>	<u>7,969</u>	<u><b>8,360</b></u>

Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy Trust  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

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

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £000	Restricted funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2024 £000
<b>Educational activities</b>			
<b>DfE grants</b>			
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	6,953	6,953
Other DfE grants			
Pupil Premium	-	106	106
Teachers pension grant	-	127	127
Other DfE Group grants	-	269	269
	-	7,455	7,455
<b>Other income from the Academy Trust's educational activities</b>	434	27	461
<b>COVID-19 additional funding (DfE)</b>			
Catch-up Premium	-	27	27
	-	27	27
	434	7,509	7,943

The Academy Trust received £12,000 (2024: £27,000) of funding for recovery / catch-up premium and costs incurred in respect of this funding totalled £12,000 (2024: £27,000) during this financial year.

6. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000
Hire of facilities	38	18	56
Income from ancillary activities	78	12	90
	116	30	146

Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy Trust  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

6. Income from other trading activities (continued)

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £000	Restricted funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2024 £000
Hire of facilities	36	-	36
Income from ancillary activities	78	12	90
	<u>114</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>126</u>

7. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2024 £000
Interest	<u>121</u>	<u>121</u>	<u>109</u>

8. Expenditure

	Staff Costs 2025 £000	Premises 2025 £000	Other 2025 £000	Total 2025 £000
Educational activities:				
Direct costs	5,552	-	727	<b>6,279</b>
Allocated support costs	923	863	450	<b>2,236</b>
	<u>6,475</u>	<u>863</u>	<u>1,177</u>	<u><b>8,515</b></u>

Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy Trust  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

8. Expenditure (continued)

	Staff Costs	Premises	Other	Total
	2024	2024	2024	2024
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Educational activities:				
Direct costs	5,058	-	748	5,806
Allocated support costs	866	773	425	2,064
	<u>5,924</u>	<u>773</u>	<u>1,173</u>	<u>7,870</u>

9. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2025 £000	Support costs 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000
Educational activities	<u>6,279</u>	<u>2,236</u>	<u>8,515</u>

	Activities undertaken directly 2024 £000	Support costs 2024 £000	Total funds 2024 £000
Educational activities	<u>5,806</u>	<u>2,064</u>	<u>7,870</u>

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

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9. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of direct costs

	<b>Total funds 2025 £000</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £000</b>
Staff costs	<b>5,552</b>	5,058
Educational supplies	<b>109</b>	106
Examination fees	<b>170</b>	159
Staff support costs	<b>47</b>	66
Educational trip expenditure	<b>384</b>	406
Other costs	<b>17</b>	11
	<hr/> <b>6,279</b> <hr/>	<hr/> 5,806 <hr/>



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

9. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Total funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2024 £000
LGPS cost	9	21
Staff costs	924	866
Depreciation	481	447
Technology costs	140	76
Premises costs	385	323
Other costs	252	290
Professional costs	45	41
	<b>2,236</b>	<b>2,064</b>

10. Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Operating lease rentals	10	10
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	482	447
Fees paid to auditors for:		
- audit	12	11
- other services	4	3

Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy Trust  
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Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

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11. Staff

a. Staff costs and employee benefits

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Wages and salaries	4,746	4,449
Social security costs	532	448
Pension costs	1,197	1,028
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	6,475	5,925
Agency staff costs	52	44
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	6,527	5,969
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

b. Staff numbers

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

	2025 No.	2024 No.
Teachers	75	71
Administration and support	56	55
Management	7	6
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	138	132
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

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

11. Staff (continued)

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 £60,001 - £70,000	12	3
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	1	2
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	1	-
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	2	1
In the band £110,001 - £120,000	-	1
In the band £130,001 - £140,000	1	-

d. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £816,000 (2024 - £842,000).

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 principal and other staff Trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal and staff members under their contracts of employment. The value of Trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

		2025 £000	2024 £000
Dr Barbara Minards*, Accounting Officer and Headteacher*	Remuneration	120 - 125	120 - 125
	Pension contributions paid	30 - 35	30 - 35
Mr Antony Maguire, Staff Governor	Remuneration	50 - 55	45 - 50
	Pension contributions paid	10 - 15	10 - 15

During the year ended 31 August 2025, expenses totalling £360 were reimbursed or paid directly to 1 Trustee (2024 - £977 to 2 Trustees).

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

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 Trust 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.

14. Tangible fixed assets

	Long-term leasehold property £000	Assets under construction £000	Plant and machinery £000	Computer equipment £000	Total £000
<b>Cost or valuation</b>					
At 1 September 2024	17,726	658	814	544	19,742
Additions	-	9	585	86	680
Disposals	-	(34)	-	-	(34)
Transfers between classes	-	(624)	624	-	-
At 31 August 2025	17,726	9	2,023	630	20,388
<b>Depreciation</b>					
At 1 September 2024	3,186	-	292	435	3,913
Charge for the year	299	-	134	49	482
At 31 August 2025	3,485	-	426	484	4,395
<b>Net book value</b>					
At 31 August 2025	14,241	9	1,597	146	15,993
At 31 August 2024	14,540	658	522	109	15,829

Land is included in the total leasehold land and buildings valuation at a value of £4,624,000 (2024: £4,624,000).

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

15. Debtors

	2025 £000	2024 £000
<b>Due within one year</b>		
Trade debtors	6	8
Other debtors	44	108
Prepayments and accrued income	242	752
	<u>292</u>	<u>868</u>

16. Current asset investments

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Short-term investments	2,996	2,545
	<u>2,996</u>	<u>2,545</u>

17. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Trade creditors	214	617
Other taxation and social security	121	103
Other creditors	121	85
Accruals and deferred income	96	91
	<u>552</u>	<u>896</u>

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

	<b>2025</b>	2024
	<b>£000</b>	£000
Deferred income at 1 September 2024	<b>26</b>	43
Resources deferred during the year	<b>22</b>	26
Amounts released from previous periods	<b>(26)</b>	(43)
	<b>22</b>	26

The release of deferred income in the year relates to funds held by the Academy Trust in 2024/25 for deposits on school trips that took place in 2025/26.

The income will be recognised in the following financial year when the related services are provided.

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

18. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 September 2024 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers in/out £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	Balance at 31 August 2025 £000
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
General Funds	863	661	(435)	-	-	1,089
<b>Restricted general funds</b>						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	1,969	7,261	(6,943)	(207)	-	2,080
Pupil Premium	-	125	(125)	-	-	-
Teachers pension grant	-	213	(213)	-	-	-
Other DfE grants	-	367	(367)	-	-	-
Income from educational activities	-	14	(14)	-	-	-
Other income	-	19	(19)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(227)	-	83	-	144	-
	1,742	7,999	(7,598)	(207)	144	2,080
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>						
Transfer on conversion	9,774	-	(251)	207	-	9,730
DfE Capital grants	4,134	(22)	(227)	-	-	3,885
Capital expenditure from GAG	2,165	-	-	-	-	2,165
Restricted donations	216	-	(3)	-	-	213
	16,289	(22)	(481)	207	-	15,993
<b>Total Restricted funds</b>	18,031	7,977	(8,079)	-	144	18,073
<b>Total funds</b>	18,894	8,638	(8,514)	-	144	19,162

**18. 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 Academy Trust's charitable objects and the terms and conditions of the Academy Trust's funding agreement.

The pupil premium funding must be used to support children from families on low income or children in care.

Other DfE grants (including Teacher Pay grants and Teachers' Pension grants), Local Authority funding 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 and the value of fixed assets transferred from academies joining the Trust in the current or previous years, 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 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**

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

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

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers in/out £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	Balance at 31 August 2024 £000
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
General Funds	727	670	(534)	-	-	863
<b>Restricted general funds</b>						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	1,554	6,954	(6,381)	(158)	-	1,969
Pupil Premium	-	132	(132)	-	-	-
Teachers pension grant	-	127	(127)	-	-	-
Other DfE grants	-	292	(292)	-	-	-
Income from educational activities	-	16	(16)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(448)	-	59	-	162	(227)
	1,106	7,521	(6,889)	(158)	162	1,742
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>						
Transfer on conversion	9,991	-	(217)	-	-	9,774
DfE Capital grants	3,080	1,123	(227)	158	-	4,134
Capital expenditure from GAG	2,165	-	-	-	-	2,165
Restricted donations	219	-	(3)	-	-	216
	15,455	1,123	(447)	158	-	16,289
<b>Total Restricted funds</b>	16,561	8,644	(7,336)	-	162	18,031
<b>Total funds</b>	17,288	9,314	(7,870)	-	162	18,894

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

19. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	15,993	15,993
Current assets	1,089	2,632	-	3,721
Creditors due within one year	-	(552)	-	(552)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,089</b>	<b>2,080</b>	<b>15,993</b>	<b>19,162</b>

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £000	Restricted funds 2024 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2024 £000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	15,829	15,829
Current assets	1,079	2,649	460	4,188
Creditors due within one year	-	(896)	-	(896)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	(216)	(11)	-	(227)
<b>Total</b>	<b>863</b>	<b>1,742</b>	<b>16,289</b>	<b>18,894</b>

**Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy Trust**  
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**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the Year Ended 31 August 2025**

**20. Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities**

	<b>2025</b>	2024
	<b>£000</b>	£000
Net income for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	<b>124</b>	1,444
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation	<b>482</b>	447
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	<b>22</b>	(1,123)
Interest receivable	<b>(121)</b>	(109)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	<b>(92)</b>	(80)
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	<b>9</b>	21
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	<b>576</b>	(220)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	<b>(344)</b>	8
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>656</b>	388

**21. Cash flows from investing activities**

	<b>2025</b>	2024
	<b>£000</b>	£000
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	<b>121</b>	109
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	<b>(680)</b>	(1,119)
Capital grants from DfE Group	<b>22</b>	1,123
<b>Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities</b>	<b>(537)</b>	113

**22. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

	<b>2025</b>	2024
	<b>£000</b>	£000
Cash in hand and at bank	<b>443</b>	775
Short-term investments	<b>2,996</b>	2,545
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>3,439</b>	3,320

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

23. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2024 £000	Cash flows £000	At 31 August 2025 £000
Cash at bank and in hand	775	(342)	433
Liquid investments	2,545	451	2,996
	<u>3,320</u>	<u>109</u>	<u>3,429</u>

24. Capital commitments

	2025 £000	2024 £000
<b>Contracted for but not provided in these financial statements</b>		
Acquisition of tangible fixed assets	-	596

At 31 August 2025, the trust had no capital commitments (2024: £596,000). The prior-year balance related to capital works that were completed during the year.

25. 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 West Midlands Pension Fund. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

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

Contributions amounting to £ - were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2025 (2024 - £3,958) and are included within creditors.

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

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**25. Pension commitments (continued)**

**Teachers' Pension Scheme**

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

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

**Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme**

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

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

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £1,336,000 (2024 - £1,138,000).

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

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102, the TPS is an unfunded multi-employer pension scheme. The 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.

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

25. 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 £359,000 (2024 - £367,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £291,000 (2024 - £297,000) and employees' contributions totalled £68,000 (2024 - £70,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 26 per cent for employers and 5.5 - 12.5 per cent for employees.

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

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2025	2024
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.70	3.65
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	6.05	5.00
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.70	2.65

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	19.9	19.6
Females	24.9	24.8
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	21.8	21.5
Females	25.0	25.0

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**25. Pension commitments (continued)**

**Sensitivity analysis**

Sensitivity analysis

	<b>2025</b>	2024
	<b>£000</b>	£000
Discount rate +0.1%	<b>(87)</b>	(106)
Discount rate -0.1%	<b>87</b>	106
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	<b>196</b>	222
Mortality assumption - 1 year decrease	<b>196</b>	(222)
CPI rate +0.1%	<b>87</b>	105
CPI rate -0.1%	<b>(87)</b>	(105)

**Share of scheme assets**

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

	<b>At 31 August</b>	At 31 August
	<b>2025</b>	2024
	<b>£000</b>	£000
Equities	<b>2,925</b>	2,764
Corporate bonds	<b>2,179</b>	1,861
Property	<b>344</b>	319
Cash and other liquid assets	<b>287</b>	372
<b>Total market value of assets</b>	<b>5,735</b>	5,316

The actual return on scheme assets was £208,000 (2024 - £238,000).

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

	<b>2025</b>	2024
	<b>£000</b>	£000
Current service cost	<b>(199)</b>	(217)
Interest income	<b>(9)</b>	(21)
<b>Total amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities</b>	<b>(208)</b>	(238)

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**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
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**25. Pension commitments (continued)**

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

	<b>2025</b>	2024
	<b>£000</b>	£000
<b>At 1 September</b>	<b>5,543</b>	5,188
Current service cost	<b>199</b>	217
Interest cost	<b>278</b>	272
Employee contributions	<b>68</b>	70
Actuarial (gains)/losses	<b>(979)</b>	1
Benefits paid	<b>(209)</b>	(205)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>At 31 August</b>	<b>4,900</b>	5,543
	<hr/>	<hr/>

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

	<b>2025</b>	2024
	<b>£000</b>	£000
<b>At 1 September</b>	<b>5,316</b>	4,740
Interest income	<b>269</b>	251
Actuarial gains	-	163
Employer contributions	<b>291</b>	297
Employee contributions	<b>68</b>	70
Benefits paid	<b>(209)</b>	(205)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>At 31 August</b>	<b>5,735</b>	5,316
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**26. 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:

	<b>2025</b>	2024
	<b>£000</b>	£000
Not later than 1 year	<b>10</b>	10
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	<b>7</b>	17
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>17</b>	27
	<hr/>	<hr/>



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

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**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.

**28. 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.

**Income related party transactions:**

During the year the Sutton Coldfield Grammar School Charity, connected by common directorship, donated £20,693 (2024: £8,000) to the Academy Trust.

**29. Agency arrangements**

The Academy Trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds on behalf of the ESFA. In the accounting period ended 31 August 2025, the Trust received £37,976 (2024: £37,673) and disbursed £39,044 (2024: £35,239) from the fund. An amount of £20,932 (2024: £21,540) is included in other creditors relating to the undistributed funds that are repayable to the ESFA.