

Rainbow Education Multi-Academy Trust

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2025

Contents

	Page Number
Reference and Administration Details	1 - 2
Trustees' Report	3 - 18
Governance Statement	19 - 23
Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance	24
Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities	25 - 26
Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements	27 - 30
Independent Reporting Accountant's Report on Regularity	31 - 32
Statement of Financial Activities Incorporating Income and Expenditure Account	33
Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2025	34
Statement of Cash Flows	35
Notes to the Accounts	36 - 67

Reference and Administrative Details

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Members	<p>F Maguire D Cadwallader L Partington (Resigned 30 January 2025) C Thompson S Harrison Rev A Tunstall (Appointed 21 April 2025) Liverpool Diocesan Board of Education</p>
Trustees	<p>D Cadwallader (Chair) R Wyn-Jones L Partington J Everard K Heaton T Dove (Resigned 7 January 2025) P Garrigan S Dunkley (Resigned 20 March 2025) D Jacques L Bennington (Appointed 17 September 2024) H Cook R Middleton (Appointed 9 December 2024)</p>
Company Secretary	<p>J Ray</p>
Clerk to the Trustees	<p>K Morris (Appointed 22 April 2025)</p>
Senior Leadership Team	<p>G Donaldson (Chief Executive Officer) (Accounting Officer) J Ray (Chief Financial and Operating Officer) J Murphy (Director of Teaching School Hub) N Tierney (HR Manager) S Knipe (Director of School Improvement) L Harriman (Headteacher – Croxteth Community Primary School) R Dean (Head of School – Garston CE Primary School, Trust EYFS Lead) N Rutter (Headteacher – Heygreen Primary School) M Power (Headteacher – Shoreside Primary School, Trust Curriculum Lead) M Bushell (Headteacher – St Gabriel’s CE Primary School) R Morris (Headteacher – St Silas CE Primary School) L Shelford (Headteacher – The District CE Primary School) A Durham (Deputy Headteacher – Townfield Primary School, Trust Curriculum Lead) C Kinnear (Assistant Headteacher – Townfield Primary School) C Ryder (Deputy Headteacher – The District CE Primary School)</p>

Reference and Administrative Details For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Company name	Rainbow Education Multi-Academy Trust
Principal and Registered Office	Unit 16, Chapel Brook Trade Park Wilson Road Huyton Liverpool L36 6FH
Company Registration Number	09265723 (England and Wales)
Independent Auditor	Murray Smith LLP Darland House 44 Winnington Hill Northwich Cheshire CW8 1AU
Bankers	Lloyds Bank PLC Liverpool Law Courts (306562) Branch PO Box 1000 BX1 1LT
Solicitors	Stone King LLP Boundary House 91 Charterhouse Street London EC1M 6HR

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

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

The Trust operates Academies for pupils aged up to 11 years serving a catchment area in the Merseyside and City Region. It has a pupil roll of 2,598 as at August 2025, with a pupil capacity of 2,590. Pupil admittance is carried out, by the Trust, in line with the Department for Education's School Admissions Policy and on the basis of the catchment area that the school resides in.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution

The Multi Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the Multi Academy Trust.

The Trustees of Rainbow Education Multi Academy Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purpose of company law. The charitable company operates as Rainbow Education Multi 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 Administration Details on page 1.

On 1st July 2025, Well Lane Primary School converted into the Trust to bring the number of schools to nine, made up of four faith schools and five community schools.

Members' liability

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

Trustees' indemnities

The Trustees are indemnified in respect of their legal liability for financial losses arising as a result of a negligent act, accidental error or omission in the course of their official duties. The limit of this indemnity is £10,000,000.

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

The Trust will recruit and appoint trustees through a process of fair selection using criteria for selection based on the annual skills audit.

The Members of the company comprise:

- two individual members appointed by the Diocesan Board of Education
- Chair of the board of directors
- any person appointed under Article 16 of the Articles of Association.

The term of office for any director (other than co-opted) shall be 4 years. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Director, any Director may be reappointed or re-elected.

All Trustees are provided with training on appointment to enable them to undertake their duties as a Trustee. Trustees are subject to Disclosure & Barring Service checks prior to appointment.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

All Trustees are provided with training on appointment to enable them to undertake their duties as a Trustee. It is expected that incumbent Trustees will provide practical help, guidance and encouragement in all aspects of governance.

Organisational structure

The management structure consists of three levels:

- Members
- Trustees (Directors)
- Local Academy Councils

The Members have overall responsibility and ultimate decision-making authority for the Multi Academy Trust.

The Trustees retain overall responsibility for strategic planning and setting the Trust's policies.

The Local Academy Councils have overall responsibility for holding school leaders to account and driving forward improvements in performance, attainment and progress.

The CEO and the Executive Team oversee leadership and management of the Trust.

Trustees’ Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

A scheme of delegation is in place that sets the levels of authority in which all senior staff and trustees operate. The aim of the structure is to devolve responsibility to those best able to make appropriate decisions. The Trust encourage staff contributions at all levels and collaboration between the schools in the Trust.

Arrangements for Setting Pay and Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

The salary for the CEO will be reviewed on an annual basis subject to performance. The review panel will comprise of the two Trustees and an independent person.

The salaries / pay committee, comprising the CEO, and a minimum of two Trustees, will review the executive and central management team salaries and performance annually.

Trade Union Facility Time

The Trust does not currently have any members of staff seeking trade union facility time. Trade unions are fully recognised and the Trust contributes towards pooled funds for trade union facility time.

Information in accordance with Schedule 2 of the Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2017 is as follows:

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	Full-time equivalent number
None	N/A

Percentage of time spent on facility time

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

Trustees’ Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Total cost of facility time	£0
Total pay bill	£15,508,000
Facility time as percentage of total pay bill	0%

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	0%
---	----

Related parties and co-operation with other organisations

St Silas Church of England Primary School, Heygreen Primary School, Garston Church of England Primary School, Shoreside Primary School, Croxteth Primary School, St Gabriel’s Church of England Primary School, Townfield Primary School, The District CofE Primary School and Well Lane Primary School work in partnership within wide and varied network. Including:

- The Dingle, Grandby and Toxteth (D.G.T) collaborative. A local network of 17 Schools within the Liverpool 8 postal code.
- Birkenhead South Network.
- SLLN: South Liverpool Learning Network.
- SLP: Southport Learning Partnership.
- SAPH: Sefton Association of Primary Heads.
- Strategic Partner: St Helens Teaching Schools Alliance and North West Maths Hub 3.
- School Improvement Liverpool, a company where David Cadwallader is employed.
- LLP: Liverpool Learning Partnership
- LPHA: Liverpool Primary Heads Association
- St Helens Headteacher Partnership Group
- St Helens First Learning Network.
- LLP: Liverpool Learning Partnership
- LPHA: Liverpool Primary Heads Association

Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)

In line with the Companies (Miscellaneous Reporting) Regulations 2018, the trust has taken action during the period to introduce, maintain and developed arrangements aimed at:

- providing employees with information on matters of concern to them.

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

- consulted employees, or their representatives, regularly so that the views of employees can be considered in making decisions which are likely to affect their interests.
- encouraged the involvement of employees in the trust's performance.
- looked to achieve a common awareness on the part of all employees of the factors affecting the performance of the trust.
- Developed policies in respect of applications for employment from disabled persons, the treatment of employees who become disabled and the training, career development and promotion of disabled people.

Engagement with suppliers, customers and others in a business relationship with the trust

The trust have had regard to the need to foster the company's business relationship with suppliers, customers and others. The governance register of business interests is published on the trust website. Moreover, the trust will always ensure best value when making business decisions; in the case of a declared business interest this will involve obtaining three quotes whenever the value of the transaction is over £10,000.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objects and aims

The principal objective and activity of the charitable company, in accordance with the Articles of Association, is the strategic management, development, maintenance and operation of the Trust's academies to provide a broad and balanced education for pupils with a range of abilities aged 4 – 11.

The aims of the Academy Trust are to:

- inspire and support our children to reach their full potential so that they can have a positive impact on their world
- instil within all of our children the desire to succeed and drive positive change within themselves and our community
- enable each child to achieve their potential in levels of academic maturity, creativity, physical development and independence
- educate the principles of Christian faith by promoting moral values, understanding and acceptance of other races, religions and ways of life.

Objectives, strategies and activities

The Academy Trust's main strategic goal is to ensure that our pupils are excited by their learning in the classroom and beyond.

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

The main objectives of the Academy during the year ended 31 August 2025 are summarised below:

- to ensure that all high attaining children make accelerated progress in reading, writing and maths.
- to accelerate the progress of all Pupil Premium children to ensure the majority reach age related expectation.
- to improve children's speech, language and communication skills so that they have the skills needed to become effective writers.
- to develop the use of Assessment for Learning across the curriculum so that children are given appropriate feedback to develop their learning.

Public benefit

We acknowledge as Trustees that the Academy Trust has complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties.

Strategic Report

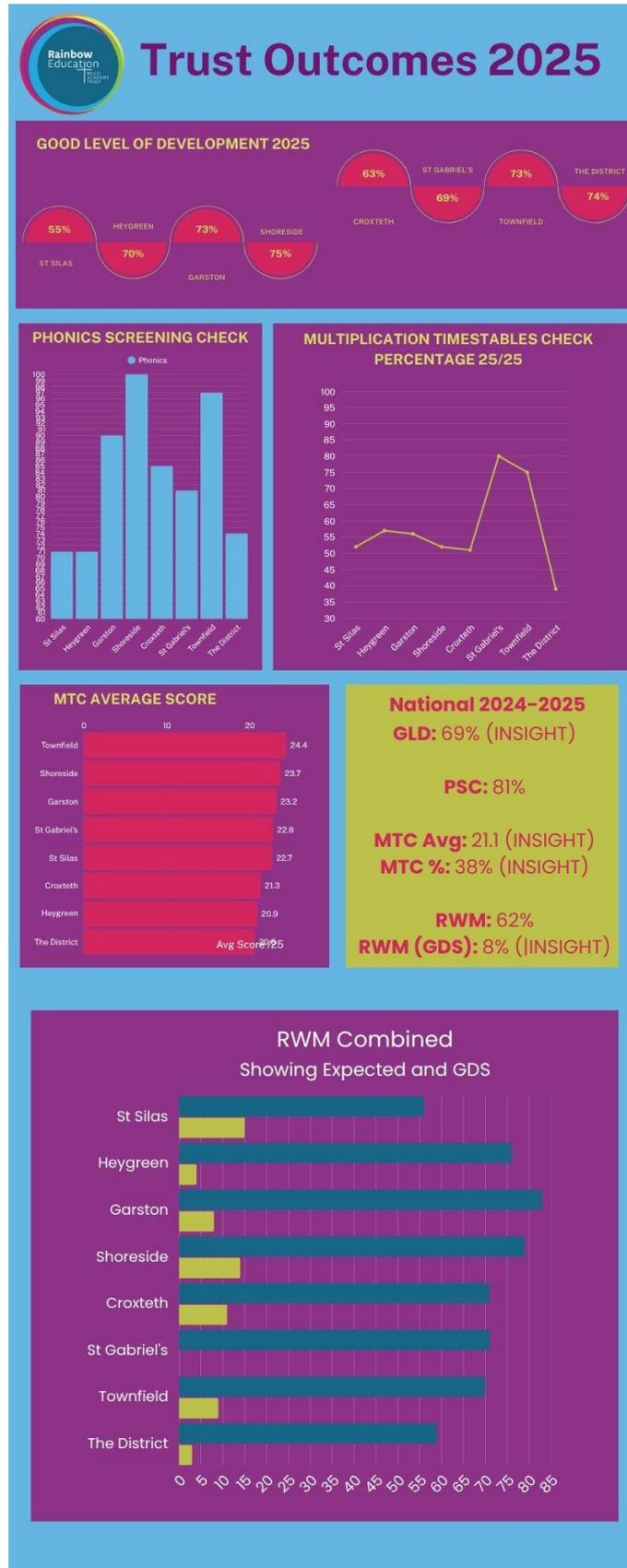
Achievement & Attainment

Table 1 - shows the GLD, PSC, MTC and Key Stage data for the trust, this data is the final published data.

Table 2 - shows current Ofsted gradings and progression

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025



Trustees’ Report For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Dates schools joined the trust

St Silas (February 15), Heygreen (December 15), Garston (April 18), Shoreside (November 18), Croxteth (January 19), St Gabriel’s (September 19), Townfield (September 21), The District (April 2024), and Well Lane (July 2025).

Table 6 – Current Ofsted Gradings

This table shows that last year the final school in a category achieved a grade of good with outstanding Personal Development.

School	Previous Ofsted Grading	Current Ofsted Grading
St Silas	Good	Outstanding (June 2024)
Heygreen	Inadequate (2014)	(March 2025) Quality of education: Good Behaviour and attitudes: Outstanding Personal development: Outstanding Leadership and management: Outstanding Early years provision: Outstanding
Garston	RI (2017)	Good (Sept 2022)
Shoreside	RI (2018)	Good (May 2023)
Croxteth	Inadequate (2018)	Good (June 2023)
Townfield	Good	Good (May 2023)
St Gabriel’s	RI (2018)	Good (February 2024)
The District CE		Good
Well Lane	Inadequate (June 2023)	

Key Performance Indicators 2024-25

DELIVER EXCELLENT EDUCATION - SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM		
KPI	FREQUENCY OF MEASUREMENT	SUCCESS CRITERIA
Ofsted grades Rainbow schools at least good	Each judgement	All academies are JUDGED at least good by Ofsted within 3 years of joining
Rainbow denominational schools are at least good in their SIAMS inspections	Each judgement	All academies are judged at least good in SIAMS at every inspection
Children at Rainbow academies progress and achieve and gaps are closing for vulnerable groups	Annual	*Progress and attainment data are at least in line with national averages Demonstrable evidence of closing the gap across the trust
Attendance and persistent absentee levels are at least inline with national	Annual	Attendance % across all schools are at least in line with national

Trustees’ Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

KPI	Frequency of measurement	Success criteria
Clear growth strategy is established and tracked to ensure growth is sustainable	Quarterly	The MAT is in a position to take on more schools without jeopardising standards in existing schools
Improved brand profile secured through enhanced website, social media presence and positive news	Quarterly	REMAT has a positive presence on social media and this supports the trusts growth
The Trust is a partner of choice for a wide range of organisations through its compelling school improvement work	Quarterly	Partnerships outside of REMAT are made and sustained

ENSURE STRONG AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE AT ALL LEVELS - CHAIR OF LAC/HEADTEACHER		
KPI	FREQUENCY OF MEASUREMENT	SUCCESS CRITERIA
The Trust has an effective governance model	Annual	External review of governance recognises an effective governance model at the Rainbow Education Multi-Academy Trust.
Trust policies are rationalised, compliant and rolled out in lined with the Trust’s scheme of delegation	Annual	External review of governance recognises an effective governance model at the Rainbow Education Multi-Academy Trust.

BUILD A STRONG AND SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE - CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER		
KPI	Frequency of measurement	Success criteria
The Trust is compliant with the Academies Handbook	Quarterly	All “musts” in the Academy Trust Handbook are met
Financial audits show controls are robust. VFM principles are applied through effective procurement	Annual	Clean audit report
Health and Safety compliance is centrally tracked and monitored to promote safer working practices	Annual	External health and safety audits

BECOME AN EMPLOYER OF CHOICE - CENTRAL TEAM		
KPI	Frequency of measurement	Success criteria
Staff voice, rates of absence and attrition indicate a positive staff culture in all schools/teams	Quarterly	Low staff absence and attrition Positive staff voice
Employee and governor profile is increasingly diverse and representative	Annual	Higher % of diversity across staff team
Coherent CPD programme promotes personal effectiveness and career development for all	Quarterly	Better national averages

Trustees’ Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

DRIVE SUSTAINABLE GROWTH - CEO/COO		
KPI	Frequency of measurement	Success criteria
Clear growth strategy is established and tracked to ensure growth is sustainable	Quarterly	The MAT is in a position to take on more schools without jeopardising standards in existing schools
Improved brand profile secured through enhanced website, social media presence and positive news	Quarterly	REMAT has a positive presence on social media and this supports the trusts growth
The Trust is a partner of choice for a wide range of organisations through its compelling school improvement work	Quarterly	Partnerships outside of REMAT are made and sustained

Promoting the success of the charitable company

Under section 172(1)(a) to (f) of the Companies Act 2006, directors of a company must act in a way most likely to promote the success of the company, and in doing so the Trustees have regard to:

- The likely consequences of any decision in the long term – strong governance of the Trust, supported by an experienced executive team, leads to decisions being made with the strategic plan and the Trust’s vision at the forefront. Ultimately, it is the education and safety of our children that informs decisions at every level.
- The interests of the company’s employees
- The need to foster the company’s business relationships with suppliers, customers and others
- The impact of the company’s operations on the community and the environment – through our estates strategy, the Trust constantly updates inefficient practices and strives to upgrade to more energy efficiency through capital improvement projects. The children are taught environmental responsibility through the school curriculum and they are encouraged to participate in practical initiatives.
- The desirability of the company maintaining a reputation for high standards of business conduct – we endeavour to build trusted relationships with our school communities, suppliers, delivery partners and funding bodies. At heart of these relationships are the Trust values of *excellence, trust, friendship, endurance and wisdom*. Safer recruitment, continuous professional development and appraisals reinforces these values with staff.

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

- The need to act fairly between members of the company – the Trust ensures that its staff, local academy counsellors, trustees and members are treated fairly through having a clear vision for the Trust, which is communicated throughout the organisation by strong leaders through a robust strategy and strong internal controls. The Trust respects and celebrates the diversity within our communities and is committed to providing an environment which ensures that all children and staff are treated with dignity and respect. A positive working environment is the aim of the Trust: free from discrimination, harassment or victimisation.

Rainbow Education Multi-Academy Trust has more than 250 employees and falls into the category of a large company.

Our mission is to flourish together as we listen, learn, lead, list and love. The Trustees use the National Governance Associate Framework for Ethical Leadership in Education as the basis for decision making.

Financial review

Most of the Academy's income is obtained from Department for Education in the form of a General Annual Grant (GAG), the use of which is restricted to the objects of the Trust. The GAG received during the year ended 31 August 2025 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the statement of financial activities.

During the year ended 31 August 2025, total expenditure of £19,343,000 (2024: £16,823,000), was covered by grant funding from the DfE together with other incoming resources. The surplus of income over expenditure for the year (excluding restricted fixed asset funds) was £502,000 (2024: £500,000).

At 31 August 2025 the net book value of fixed assets was £30,251,000 (2024: £27,074,000). Movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in notes 12 and 13 to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the students of the Academy Trust.

The landscape in the academy sector continues to be a challenging one but the Trust have worked very hard to increase its unrestricted reserves and ensures that it complies with DfE guidelines around the levels of reserves held. Costs continue to rise and funding doesn't always keep pace with these rises, however, all the schools in the Trust have met these challenges head on and have done some excellent work in keeping costs to a minimum.

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

As at 31 August 2025, the restricted general funds plus unrestricted funds balance (not including pension reserve) was £677,000 (2024: £669,000) and the surplus for the year was £502,000 (2024: £500,000).

The conversion of Well Lane Primary School on 1st July 2025 included the transfer of all assets and liabilities into the Trust. On conversion, the addition to the restricted fixed asset fund was £2,695,000.

Going concern

Despite the challenges faced by the Trust, and the sector as a whole, the Trust is pleased to report an in-year surplus and a increase in unrestricted reserves. After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees consider that the Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, it continues to adopt a going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. The Trustees are satisfied, having viewed budgets and cash flow forecasts that the Trust is in a relatively healthy financial position, particularly when considering the levels of reserves that the Trust has in place.

The Trust continues to plan for growth and will continue to work with schools and invite them to join the Trust, should this be beneficial for both parties. Trustees believe that the Trust has the structure and mechanisms in place to increase its cohort of schools and still operate efficiently across existing and new schools.

On 1st July 2025, Well Lane Primary School joined the community schools within the Trust.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 36 to 43 and comply with the charitable company's memorandum and articles of association, applicable laws and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2015.

Reserves policy

The Trustees review the reserve levels of the Academy Trust annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves.

The Trustees will endeavour to keep an appropriate level of funds in reserve that it considers necessary for future operations and capital projects. Such reserves will provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and a contingency fund to deal with any unexpected emergencies.

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

As at 31 August 2025 the level of Trust reserves held in restricted funds not available for general purposes is £30,601,000 (2024: £25,402,000) plus a balance of unrestricted general funds of £677,000 (2024: £669,000) giving a net surplus of £31,278,000 (2024: £26,071,000).

Investment policy

The Trustees review on an annual basis the need to invest any substantial reserves.

Plans for future periods

The Academy Trust will continue to strive to improve the levels of performance of its students at all levels and will continue its efforts to ensure its students make a smooth and successful transition into secondary education. The Trust will continue to build capacity to enable it to support additional schools across the Merseyside City Region.

Financial and risk management

As required by the Companies Act 2006, the major risks, to which the academy trust is exposed, as identified by the Trustees, have been reviewed, and systems and procedures have been established to manage those risks. There is minimal exposure to financial and liquidity risks as the Trust deals with largely bank balances, cash and trade creditors, with limited trade (and other) debtors.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The major risks, to which the academy is exposed, as identified by the Trustees, have been reviewed, and systems and procedures have been established to manage those risks.

The Academy Trust has undertaken further work during the year to develop and embed the system of internal control, including financial, operational and risk management, which is designed to protect the Trust's assets and reputation. A risk register is maintained and is reviewed annually by the Trustees and more frequently where necessary. The risk register identifies the key risks, the likelihood of those risks occurring, their potential impact on the Trust and the actions being taken to reduce and mitigate the risks. Risks are to be prioritised using a consistent scoring system.

The risk register in place identified and reviewed the following risk areas:

- Safeguarding
- Reputational
- Physical
- Infrastructure
- Governance
- Staffing

Trustees’ Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

- Students
- Financial
- Business continuity

Fundraising

The Trust conducts fundraising activities which support income generation including:

- Lettings
- Training events
- School led events
- Support provided by National Leaders of Education and Specialist Leaders of Education employed by the Trust

All fundraising activity is administered via appropriate staff employed by the Trust and support Trust objectives.

Occasionally the Academy Trust engages approved commercial participators within our fundraising activities, such as school photography sessions and agency supply where the Trust receives a commission in line with the volume of sales activity. The Trust monitored this through the engagement of senior staff and no complaints have ever been received by any parent or member of the public with regards to the processes the Trust use to fundraise. The Trust only ever seeks voluntary contributions and participators are always instructed not to unreasonably intrude on a person’s privacy, unreasonably persist with an individual for the purpose of procuring money and to ensure that no undue pressure is placed on anyone to give money or other property.

Streamlined energy and carbon reporting

UK Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data for the period	1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025	1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024
Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh)	2,201,764	2,325,102
<u>Scope 1 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e</u> Gas consumption	279.73	297.49
<u>Scope 2 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e</u> Purchased electricity	119.09	144.64
<u>Scope 3 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e</u> Business travel in employee-owned vehicles	6.36	7.19

Trustees’ Report
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO2e	405.18	449.32
<u>Intensity ratio</u> Tonnes CO2e per pupil	0.16	0.18

Quantification and reporting methodology

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

Intensity measurement

The chosen intensity measurement ratio is total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO2e per pupil, the recommended ratio for the sector.

Measures taken to improve energy efficiency

The successful bids to obtain Condition Improvement Funding grants through the Department for Education, has allowed the Trust to significantly improve energy efficiency.

Over the last four years, the Trust has upgraded the following:

- Completion of the roof replacement scheme at St Gabriel’s CofE Primary School.
- New boilers installed at St Silas CofE Primary School together with upgraded heating controls.
- New boilers installed in Shoreside Primary School and Garston CofE Primary School with heating control for classrooms and a full heating upgrade in both schools.
- Full electrical rewire at Shoreside Primary School.
- The building management system at St Silas has been upgraded to allow site staff to control heating levels across zones in school.
- Replacement of dilapidated and defective electrical components at Shoreside Primary School – removing risk of school closure from electrical socket blow out and improving the poor energy performance and efficiency within the school.
- Installed solar panels at Croxteth Community Primary School.
- Commenced roof replacement scheme at St Silas CofE Primary School. To be completed October 2025.

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

The Trust and its trustees did not act as a custodian trustee during the current period.

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Auditor

Murray Smith LLP have indicated a willingness to remain in office.

The Trustees have confirmed that, as far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the auditor is unaware. Each of the Trustees have confirmed that they have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as Trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that it has been communicated to the auditor.

The Trustees report is approved by order of the Board of Trustees and the strategic report (included therein) is approved by the Board of Trustees in their capacity as the directors at a meeting on 11 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Signed by:



473D0949343C4C0...

D Cadwallader
Chair of Trustees

Governance Statement

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Scope of responsibility

As Trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Rainbow Education Multi-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 DfE's Governance Guide.

The Trustees have delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the CEO 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 Rainbow Education Multi Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees any material weaknesses or breakdown 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 Trustees have formally met four times during the year.

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

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Mr Francis Maguire*	0	0
Mr David Cadwallader (Chairperson)	4	4
Mr Robert Wyn-Jones	3	4
Mrs Lorraine Partington (Vice Chairperson)	1	4
Mr Jonathan Everard	3	4
Mr Chad Thompson*	0	0
Mr Kenneth Heaton	3	4
Mrs Liz Bennington	3	4
Ms Tracy Dove	1	1
Mr Phillip Garrigan	1	4
Mr Stephen Dunkley	3	3
Mr Duncan Jacques	4	4

**Governance Statement
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025**

Ms Hilary Cook	2	4
Mrs Robyn Middleton	2	4
Mr Stuart Harrison (LDBE)*	0	0
Rev Alyson Tunstall*	0	0

* Members do not attend trustee's meetings.

Trustees were informed and approved of the Trust’s financial position through the year via online updates, in view of the fact that face to face meetings have become more problematic to arrange.

The following Trustees also form the Finance & Audit Sub-Committee: Duncan Jacques (Chair), Dave Cadwallader, Jonathan Everard, Robert Wyn-Jones, Robyn Middleton and Maria McMahon*.

*Maria is a member of Croxteth Primary School’s LAC board but is also an internal auditor, so she also sits on the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee, due her expertise in this area. Maria brings great value to this committee.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Mr Duncan Jacques (Chairperson)	3	3
Mr Robert Wyn-Jones	2	3
Mr Jonathan Everard	3	3
Mrs Robyn Middleton	3	3
Mr David Cadwallader	2	3

Review of value for money

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

The Accounting Officer considers how the trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the Board of Trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where available. The Accounting Officer for the academy trust has improved value for money by:

Governance Statement

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

- concentrating on the quality of teaching and learning throughout the trust, with this being led by recognised practitioners at each key stage. One outcome can be seen in significantly improved scores reported in this narrative.
- The Trust has focused on targeted improvement linked to the School Development Plan of the Academy to ensure maximum impact on outcomes for pupils in these key areas. This has included ensuring that all schools deliver a broad and balanced trust wide curriculum offer to all children.

The Trust development plans have focused on improving the quality of teaching by ensuring all teaching staff understand the science of learning and formative assessment.

The schools continue to actively promote the wider use of digital media to further engage pupils in their learning and to accelerate their progress across all subjects. All schools continue to provide experimental learning opportunities for all children to widen their understanding of the world. These experiences have a positive impact on behaviour and attainment, especially in writing across the school.

As a result of the increasing emotional and social needs presented by children, the Academy has developed the pastoral support team by appointing a fully trained and qualified social worker to work in partnership with the Child Development and Welfare Officer to support all children and families who attend a trust school.

The purpose of the system of internal control

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

Capacity to handle risk

The Trustees have 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 are of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trusts' significant risks that has been in place for the year ending 31 August 2025 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the trust.

Governance Statement

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

The risk and control framework

The Academy Trust's system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information and administrative procedures including the segregation of duties and 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 Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- identification and management of risks.

The Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal control function and, for this financial year, appointed Haines Watts as internal auditor.

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

- testing of payroll systems
- testing of purchase systems
- testing of bank reconciliations
- testing of debtors and creditors reconciliations
- review of financial policies and procedures
- review of value for money procedures

On an annual basis, internal audit reports to the Board of Trustees on the operations of the systems of control and on discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial discharge.

Review of effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, the CEO has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by;

- the work of the internal reviewer;

Governance Statement For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

- the work of the external auditor;
- the work of the executive managers within the Academy Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework;

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

Conclusion

Based on the advice of the Finance, 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 11 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Signed by:

473D0949343C4C0...

D Cadwallader
Chair of Trustees

Signed by:

1D19E387D7354FC...

G Donaldson
Accounting Officer

Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

As Accounting Officer of Rainbow Education Multi-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 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.

Signed by:

1D19E387D7354FC...

G Donaldson
Accounting Officer
11 December 2025

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

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

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in 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 the 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

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

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 11 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Signed by:

473D0949343C4C0...

**D Cadwallader
Chair of Trustees**

Independent Auditor’s Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Rainbow Education Multi-Academy Trust

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Rainbow Education Multi-Academy Trust for the year ended 31 August 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 ‘the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland’ (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by the Department for Education (DfE).

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trust’s 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 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.

Independent Auditor’s Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Rainbow Education Multi-Academy Trust

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

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees’ Report, but does not include the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, 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 the 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.

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

- proper accounting records have not been kept;
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- all the information and explanations required for the audit were not received.

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Rainbow Education Multi-Academy Trust

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities set out in the trustee's annual report, the trustees 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 Board of Trustees determines 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 Board of Trustees is 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 Board of Trustees either intends to liquidate the Academy Trust or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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:

The audit procedures designed to identify irregularities included:

- enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims
- enquiry of Academy Trust staff with responsibilities for compliance matters to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations
- reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations
- auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business.

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Rainbow Education Multi-Academy Trust

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, intentional misrepresentations or through collusion.

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the 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 Members, as a body, 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 the Members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

DocuSigned by:

5935DFB75AC0453...

Steven Williams FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Murray Smith LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
Darland House
44 Winnington Hill
Northwich
Cheshire
CW8 1AU

Date 11 December 2025

Independent Reporting Accountant’s Report on Regularity to Rainbow Education Multi-Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education

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

This report is made solely to Rainbow Education Multi-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 Rainbow Education Multi-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 Rainbow Education Multi-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 the accounting officer of Rainbow Education Multi-Academy Trust and the reporting accountant

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of Rainbow Education Multi-Academy Trust’s funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education and the Academy Trust Handbook for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Independent Reporting Accountant’s Report on Regularity to Rainbow Education Multi-Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education

Approach

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- review of arrangements in place over financial management; and
- review of the Trust’s expenditure during the year.

Conclusion

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

DocuSigned by:

5935DFB75AC0453...

Murray Smith LLP

Date 11 December 2025

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
Darland House
44 Winnington Hill
Northwich
Cheshire CW8 1AU

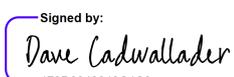
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted General funds £000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £000	Total 2025 £000	Total 2024 £000
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	2	11	-	1,189	1,200	784
Conversion of maintained school into the academy trust	29	-	-	2,695	2,695	3,001
Charitable activities:						
Funding for the Academy Trust's educational activities	3	246	17,951	-	18,197	15,304
Other trading activities	4	1,095	-	-	1,095	1,226
Investments	5	-	-	-	-	-
Total income		1,352	17,951	3,884	23,187	20,315
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds		-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities:						
Academy Trust educational operations	7	32	18,769	542	19,343	16,823
Other		-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure		32	18,769	542	19,343	16,823
Net income / (expenditure)		1,320	(818)	3,342	3,844	3,492
Transfers between funds	17	(1,312)	1,127	185	-	-
Other recognised gains / (losses):						
Actuarial gains / (losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	27	-	1,363	-	1,363	38
Net movement in funds		8	1,672	3,527	5,207	3,530
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		669	(1,672)	27,074	26,071	22,541
Total funds carried forward		677	-	30,601	31,278	26,071

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2025

	Notes	31 August 2025 £000	31 August 2024 £000
Fixed assets			
Intangible fixed assets	12	3	4
Tangible fixed assets	13	30,248	27,070
		30,251	27,074
Current assets			
Debtors	14	1,893	1,267
Cash at bank and in hand		1,351	823
		3,244	2,090
Current Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(2,086)	(1,421)
		1,158	669
Net current assets			
		31,409	27,743
Total assets less current liabilities			
Creditors – amounts falling due after more than one year	16	(131)	-
		31,278	27,743
Net assets excluding pension asset/ liability			
Defined benefit pension scheme asset/(liability)	27	-	(1,672)
		31,278	26,071
Total net assets			
Funds of the Academy Trust:			
Restricted funds			
Fixed asset fund	17	30,601	27,074
Restricted income fund	17	-	-
Pension reserve	17	-	(1,672)
		30,601	25,402
Total restricted funds			
Unrestricted income funds	17	677	669
		31,278	26,071
Total funds			

The financial statements on pages 33 to 67 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 11 December 2025 and are signed on their behalf by:

Signed by:

 473D0949343C4C0...
D Cadwallader
 Chair of Trustees

Signed by:

 1D19E387D7354FC...
G Donaldson
 Accounting Officer

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2025

	Note	Year ended 31 August 2025 £000	Year ended 31 August 2024 £000
Cash flow from operating activities			
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	21	232	(111)
Cash flows from investing activities	23	165	(323)
Cash flows from financing activities	22	131	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		528	(434)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2024		823	1,257
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2025	24	1,351	823

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

1. Accounting policies

Rainbow Education Multi-Academy Trust is a charitable company, incorporated in England and Wales. The address of the principal place of business is given on page 1 and the nature of its operations are set out in the Trustees' report.

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.

Basis of preparation

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

The financial statements are presented in sterling which is also the functional currency of the academy trust.

Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest whole £1,000, except where otherwise indicated.

Going concern

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the company to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that Rainbow Education Multi-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 adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention as modified by the use of previous valuations as deemed cost at transition for certain non-current assets.

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

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 (GAG) is recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the period is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

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

Donations

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

Investment income

All income from short term deposit accounts is credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which it is earned on a receivable basis.

Other income

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

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

Donated goods, facilities and services

Goods donated for resale are included at fair value, being the expected proceeds from sale less the expected costs of sale. If it is practical to assess the fair value at receipt, it is recognised in stock and 'Income from other trading activities'. Upon sale, the value of the stock is charged against 'Income from other trading activities' and the proceeds are recognised as 'Income from other trading activities'. Where it is impractical to fair value the items due to the volume of low value items they are not recognised in the financial statements until they are sold. This income is recognised within 'Income from other trading activities'.

Transfer on conversion

Where assets and liabilities are received by the academy trust on conversion to an academy, the transferred assets are measured at fair value and recognised in the balance sheet at the point when the risks and rewards of ownership pass to the academy trust. An equal amount of income is recognised as transfer on conversion within donations and capital grant income to the net assets received.

Donated fixed assets (excluding transfers on conversion/into the academy trust)

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

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.

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

- **Expenditure on raising funds**

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

- **Charitable activities**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT, where applicable.

Intangible fixed assets

Intangible assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable, and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably. Intangible assets are initially recognised at cost and are subsequently measured at cost net of amortisation and any provision for impairment.

Amortisation is provided on intangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, as follows:

Computer software	– 4 years
-------------------	-----------

Tangible fixed assets

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

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

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

relevant assets is charged directly to the restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities.

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

Land and buildings	– 40 or 50 years
Computer equipment	– 4 years
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	– 4 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.

Subsequent expenditure on existing fixed assets

Where significant expenditure is incurred on tangible fixed assets after initial purchase it is charged to the statement of financial activities in the period it is incurred unless it increases the future benefits to the Trust, in which case it is capitalised and depreciated on the relevant basis.

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.

Provisions

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

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

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

Leased Assets

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

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 basis are as follows:

Financial assets – trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

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

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.

Pensions Benefits

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

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

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

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

They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

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

Fund Accounting

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

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

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

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit asset or liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 27, will impact the carrying amount of the pension asset/liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions asset/liability at 31 August 2025. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension asset/liability.

Critical areas of judgement

The value of the Trust's share of net assets of the Merseyside Pension Fund Scheme has been restricted due to the effect of asset ceiling being the maximum value of the present of the economic benefits available in the form of the unconditional right to reduced contributions from the plan. A corresponding charge has been made to other comprehensive income in the period.

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

2. Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	2025 Total £000	2024 Total £000
Capital grants	-	1,189	1,189	460
Other donations	11	-	11	324
Total	11	1,189	1,200	784

3. Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	2025 Total £000	2024 Total £000
DfE / ESFA grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	12,369	12,369	10,603
Other DfE/ESFA grants				
UIFSM	-	260	260	244
Pupil Premium	-	1,446	1,446	1,393
Others	-	1,721	1,721	1,198
Other DfE Group grants	-	-	-	-
Other Government grants				
Local authority grants	-	2,155	2,155	1,866
Other income from the Academy Trust's educational operations	246	-	246	-
	246	17,951	18,197	15,304

4. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	2025 Total £000	2024 Total £000
Hire of facilities	38	-	38	44
Income from other charitable activities	277	-	277	240
Income from ancillary trading activities	780	-	780	942
Total	1,095	-	1,095	1,226

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

5. Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	2025 Total £000	2024 Total £000
Short term deposits - interest	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-

6. Expenditure

	Staff Costs £000	Premises £000	Other £000	2025 Total £000	2024 Total £000
<i>Expenditure on raising funds:</i>					
Direct costs	-	-	-	-	-
Allocated support costs	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Academy Trust's educational operations:</i>					
Direct costs	12,867	-	594	13,461	11,023
Allocated support costs	2,322	978	2,582	5,882	5,800
Total	15,189	978	3,176	19,343	16,823

Net expenditure for the period includes:

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Operating lease rentals	444	411
Depreciation and amortisation	542	469
Fees payable to auditor for:		
-audit	18	36
-other services	6	5

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

7. Charitable activities

	2025	2024
	£000	£000
Direct costs – educational operations	13,461	11,023
Support costs – educational operations	5,882	5,800
	19,343	16,823

Analysis of support costs

	2025	2024
	Educational	Educational
	Operations	Operations
	£000	£000
Support staff costs	2,322	2,166
Depreciation and amortisation	542	469
Technology costs	246	-
Premises costs	978	1,546
Legal costs – conversion	-	-
Legal costs - other	21	751
Other support costs	1,713	817
Governance costs	60	51
Total support costs	5,882	5,800

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

8. Staff

a Staff costs and employee benefits

Staff costs during the period were:

	2025	2024
	£000	£000
Wages and salaries	11,227	9,885
Social security costs	1,251	943
Pension costs	2,445	2,012
Other employee benefits	-	-
	14,923	12,840
Agency staff costs	212	148
Staff restructuring costs	54	-
Staff development and other staff costs	-	85
Total staff costs	15,189	13,073

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Redundancy payments	-	-
Severance payments	54	-
	54	-

b. Severance payments

The academy trust paid 1 severance payment in the year, disclosed in the following bands:

£0 - £25,000	0
£25,001 - £50,000	0
£50,001 - £100,000	1
£100,001 - £150,000	0
£150,000 +	0

c. Special staff severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs is one special severance payment of £18,034 (2024: £nil).

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

8. Staff (continued)

d. Staff numbers

The average number of persons employed by the Academy Trust during the period was:

	2025	2024
	No	No
Teachers	121	115
Administration and support	259	243
Management	12	9
	392	367

e. Higher paid staff

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

	2025	2024
	No	No
£60,001 to £70,000	1	5
£70,001 to £80,000	7	3
£80,001 to £90,000	1	1
£90,001 to £100,000	1	1
£100,001 to £110,000	2	-
£120,001 to £130,000	-	1
£130,001 to £140,000	1	-

f. Key management personnel

Key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the trustees and the senior leadership team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £1,571,484 (2024: £1,057,925).

9. Central services

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

- Human resources
- Financial services
- Legal services
- Procurement services
- Educational support services

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

9. Central services (continued)

- Estates management
- Payroll services
- Media and marketing services
- Governance services

The academy trust charges for these services on the basis of costs incurred.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2025	2024
	£000	£000
St Silas Church of England Primary School	135	367
Heygreen Primary School	89	15
Garston Church of England Primary School	77	158
Croxteth Community Primary School	115	99
Shoreside Primary School	62	(81)
St Gabriel's CofE Primary School	78	(11)
Townfield Primary School	141	(68)
The District CofE Primary School	115	90
	812	569

10. Related party transactions – Trustees' remuneration and expenses

No trustees have been paid remuneration or have received other benefits from employment with the Academy Trust.

During the year ended 31 August 2025 no travel and subsistence expenses were reimbursed or paid directly to the trustees (2024: £nil).

11. Trustees and Officers' Insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice the Academy Trust has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy Trust business. The insurance provides cover up to £10,000,000 on any claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2025 was not separately identifiable, but it is included within the total insurance cost.

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

12. Intangible fixed assets

	Computer software
	£000
Cost or valuation	
At 1 September 2024	5
Additions	-
At 31 August 2025	5
Depreciation	
At 1 September 2024	1
Charge for period	1
At 31 August 2025	2
Net book value	
At 31 August 2024	4
At 31 August 2025	3

13. Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings	Assets under construction	Computer equipment	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cost or valuation					
At 1 September 2024	28,500	-	440	330	29,270
Received on conversion	2,695	-	-	-	2,695
Additions	228	674	46	76	1,024
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2025	31,423	674	486	406	32,989
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2024	1,810	-	194	196	2,200
Charge for period	384	-	87	70	541
Eliminated on disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2025	2,194	-	281	266	2,741
Net book value					
At 31 August 2024	26,690	-	246	134	27,070
At 31 August 2025	29,229	674	205	140	30,248

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

14. Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:	2025	2024
	£000	£000
Trade debtors	48	42
VAT recoverable	228	101
Other debtors	5	-
Prepayments and accrued income	1,612	1,124
	1,893	1,267

15. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£000	£000
Trade creditors	1,039	421
Other taxation and social security	281	217
Other creditors	291	263
Accruals and deferred income	475	520
	2,086	1,421

	2025	2024
	£000	£000
Deferred income at 31 August 2024	175	127
Released from previous years	(175)	(127)
Resources deferred in year	152	175
Deferred income at 31 August 2025	152	175

At the balance sheet date, the Academy Trust was holding the following funds received in advance:

	£000	£000
Free school meals	152	175
	152	175

16. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	£000	£000
Loans	131	-
	131	-

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

16. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year (continued)

The loans due after more than one year of £130,840 are CIF loans relating to capital projects, repayable over 10 years.

17. Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2024 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Gains (Losses) and Transfers £000	Balance at 31 August 2025 £000
Restricted General Funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	12,369	(13,496)	1,127	-
UIFSM	-	260	(260)	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	1,446	(1,446)	-	-
Other DfE group grants	-	1,721	(1,721)	-	-
Local Authority grants	-	2,155	(2,155)	-	-
Transfer from maintained school conversion	-	-	-	-	-
Pension Reserve	(1,672)	-	309	1,363	-
	(1,672)	17,951	(18,769)	2,490	-
Restricted Fixed Asset Funds					
Inherited on conversion	21,328	2,695	(292)	-	23,731
DfE group capital grants	5,077	1,189	(235)	185	6,216
Private sector capital sponsorship	669	-	(15)	-	654
	27,074	3,884	(542)	185	30,601
Total Restricted Funds	25,402	21,835	(19,311)	2,675	30,601
Total Unrestricted Funds	669	1,352	(32)	(1,312)	677
Total Funds	26,071	23,187	(19,343)	1,363	31,278

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

Restricted general fund

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

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

17. Funds (continued)

Fixed assets fund

These grants relate to funding from the DfE and private sponsors to carry out works of a capital nature as part of the school improvement plan.

Other restricted funds

These funds relate to monies received from the local government, private sector and private sponsors to carry out works of a capital or revenue nature.

Unrestricted funds

This fund primarily relates to income from lettings, staff secondments and teaching school income.

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

17. Funds (continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2023	Income	Expenditure	Gains (Losses) and Transfers	Balance at 31 August 2024
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Restricted General Funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	10,603	(11,572)	969	-
UIFSM	-	244	(244)	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	1,393	(1,393)	-	-
Other DfE group grants	-	1,198	(1,198)	-	-
Local Authority grants	-	1,866	(1,866)	-	-
Transfer from maintained school conversion	-	307	(307)	-	-
Pension Reserve	(1,966)	-	256	38	(1,672)
	(1,966)	15,611	(16,324)	1,007	(1,672)
Restricted Fixed Asset Funds					
Inherited on conversion	18,692	3,001	(365)	-	21,328
DfE group capital grants	4,709	460	(92)	-	5,077
Private sector capital sponsorship	630	-	(12)	51	669
	24,031	3,461	(469)	51	27,074
Total Restricted Funds	22,065	19,072	(16,793)	1,058	25,402
Total Unrestricted Funds	476	1,243	(30)	(1,020)	669
Total Funds	22,541	20,315	(16,823)	38	26,071

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

17. Funds (continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2025 were allocated as follows:

	2025	2024
	£000	£000
St Silas Church of England Primary School	-	-
Heygreen Primary School	195	199
Garston Church of England Primary School	-	-
Croxteth Community Primary School	-	-
Shoreside Primary School	-	-
St Gabriel's CofE Primary School	-	-
Townfield Primary School	-	-
The District CofE Primary School	228	247
Well Lane Primary School	32	-
Rainbow Trust	222	223
Total before fixed assets and pension reserve	677	669
Restricted fixed asset fund	30,601	27,074
Pension reserve	-	(1,672)
Total	31,278	26,071

The Trust does GAG pooling and as such individual schools within the Trust no longer hold funds balances and all funds are held within the central trust. The exceptions to this are Heygreen Primary School, as they are a PFI school and the PFI element of their funding should stay with the school, and also The District CofE Primary School. All new convertor schools are permitted to retain their reserves for a period of time, on joining the Trust.

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

17. Funds (continued)

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and Educational Support Staff Costs £000	Other Support Staff Costs £000	Educational Supplies £000	Other Costs excluding depreciation £000	2025 Total £000	2024 Total £000
St Silas Church of England Primary School	1,909	298	64	238	2,509	2,438
Heygreen Primary School	1,127	157	81	449	1,814	1,768
Garston Church of England Primary School	1,054	248	54	160	1,516	1,512
Croxteth Community Primary School	1,656	281	92	258	2,287	2,204
Shoreside Primary School	1,027	196	47	244	1,514	1,390
St Gabriel's CofE Primary School	1,137	169	71	238	1,615	1,611
Townfield Primary School	2,255	426	105	368	3,154	3,007
The District CofE Primary School	1,931	238	78	260	2,507	983
Well Lane Primary School	143	19	1	15	178	-
Teaching School Hub	179	94	-	208	481	461
Rainbow Trust	373	591	1	261	1,226	980
	12,791	2,717	594	2,699	18,801	16,354

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

18. Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2025 are represented by:

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted General Funds	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	30,251	30,251
Current assets	677	2,086	481	3,244
Current liabilities	-	(2,086)	-	(2,086)
Non-current liabilities	-	-	(131)	(131)
Pension scheme liabilities	-	-	-	-
Total net assets	677	-	30,601	31,278

Comparative information in respect of the previous period as at 31 August 2024 is as follows:

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted General Funds	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	27,074	27,074
Current assets	669	1,421	-	2,090
Current liabilities	-	(1,421)	-	(1,421)
Non-current liabilities	-	-	-	-
Pension scheme liabilities	-	(1,672)	-	(1,672)
Total net assets	669	(1,672)	27,074	26,071

19. Capital and other commitments

	2025	2024
	£000	£000
Commitments contracted for, but not provided for at 31 August	<u>688</u>	<u>121</u>

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

20. Long-term commitments, including operating leases

Operating leases

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

	2025	2024
	£000	£000
Amounts due within one year	442	411
Amounts due between one and five years	1,608	1,575
Amounts due after five years	568	975
	2,618	2,961

The Trust occupies premises which are subject to a private finance initiative (PFI) contract. The Trust itself is not party to this service concession contract, however, the Trust has entered into a supporting agreement for the costs of the local authority. The above relates to commitments to operating payments including costs for catering, cleaning, utilities and other ancillary services.

21. Reconciliation of net income/ (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2025	2024
	£000	£000
Net income / (expenditure) for the period	3,844	4,176
Adjusted for:		
Net surplus on conversion of maintained school	(2,695)	(3,685)
Depreciation and amortisation	542	470
Capital grants from DfE and other capital grants	(1,189)	(460)
Interest paid	-	-
Interest receivable	-	-
Defined benefit scheme cost less contributions payable	(319)	(342)
Defined pension scheme finance cost	10	81
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	(626)	(30)
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	665	(321)
Net cash provided by operating activities	232	(111)

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

22. Cash flows from financing activities

	2025	2024
	£000	£000
Repayments of borrowing	-	-
Cash inflows from new borrowing	131	-
Interest paid	-	-
Net cash provided by / (used in) financing activities	131	-

23. Cash flows from investing activities

	2025	2024
	£000	£000
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	-	-
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(1,024)	(783)
Capital grants from DfE Group	1,189	460
Capital funding received from sponsors and others	-	-
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities	165	(323)

24. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2025	2024
	£000	£000
Cash in hand and at bank	1,351	823
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	-	-
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,351	823

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

25. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2024 £000	Cash flows £000	At 31 August 2025 £000
Cash	823	528	1,351
Cash equivalents	-	-	-
	823	528	1,351
Loans falling due within one year	-	-	-
Loans falling due after more than one year	-	(131)	(131)
Total	823	397	1,220

26. 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.

27. Pension and similar obligations

The Academy Trust's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: The Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by the Greater Manchester 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 £292,509 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2025 (2024: £261,415) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

27. Pension and similar obligations (continued)

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 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 £1,611,000 (2024: £1,258,000).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website. (<https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2023/10/valuation-result.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 under 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 accounts
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

27. Pension and similar obligations (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 £1,446,000 (2024 £1,296,000), of which employer’s contributions totalled £1,138,000 (2024 £1,021,000) and employees’ contributions totalled £308,000 (2024 £275,000). The agreed employer contribution rates for future years are 15.7% to 19.6% and for employees range from 5.5% to 12.5% depending on salary.

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

Principal Actuarial Assumptions

	At 31 August 2025	At 31 August 2024
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	4.0	4.1
Future pensions increases	2.6	2.7
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	6.3	5.0

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

	At 31 August 2025	At 31 August 2024
	Years	Years
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	20.6	20.8
Females	23.3	23.4
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	21.7	22.0
Females	24.7	25.1

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

27. Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Sensitivity Analysis

	2025	2024
	£000	£000
Discount rate: + 0.1%	(203)	(256)
Discount rate: - 0.1%	208	260
Mortality assumption: 1 year increase	176	241
Mortality assumption: 1 year decrease	(175)	(237)
CPI rate: + 0.1%	209	262
CPI rate: - 0.1%	(203)	(255)

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

	2025	2024
	£000	£000
Equities	7,981	5,962
Bonds	762	729
Property	1,596	1,267
Cash and other liquid assets	<u>4,041</u>	<u>3,252</u>
Total fair value of assets	<u>14,380</u>	<u>11,210</u>

The actual return on the scheme assets was £1,050k (2024 £693k).

Amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities

	2025	2024
	£000	£000
Current service cost	(794)	(679)
Past service cost	-	-
Interest income	601	451
Interest cost	(611)	(515)
Interest on asset ceiling	(39)	-
Effect of business combinations and disposals	439	-
Admin expenses	<u>(25)</u>	<u>(22)</u>
Total amount recognised in the SOFA	<u>(429)</u>	<u>(765)</u>

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

27. Pension and similar obligations (continued)

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

	2025	2024
	£000	£000
At 1 September 2024	12,090	8,982
Effect of business combinations and disposals	352	1,713
Current service cost	794	679
Interest cost	611	515
Employee contributions	308	275
Actuarial (gain) / loss	(3,398)	94
Benefits paid	(93)	(168)
Past service cost	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
At 31 August 2025	<u>10,664</u>	<u>12,090</u>

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

	2025	2024
	£000	£000
At 1 September 2024	11,210	7,016
Effect of business combinations	791	2,397
Interest income	601	451
Actuarial gain / (loss)	450	240
Employer contributions	1,138	1,021
Employee contributions	308	275
Benefits paid	(93)	(168)
Admin expenses	<u>(25)</u>	<u>(22)</u>
At 31 August 2025	<u>14,380</u>	<u>11,210</u>

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

27. Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Net asset restriction

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Fair value of plan assets	14,380	11,210
Present value of defined benefit obligations	<u>(10,664)</u>	<u>(12,090)</u>
Net assets	3,716	(880)
Restriction to level of asset ceiling	<u>(3,716)</u>	<u>(792)</u>
Net liability recognised in the Balance Sheet	<u>—</u>	<u>(1,672)</u>

The value of the Trust's share of net assets has been restricted due to the effect of the asset ceiling being the maximum value of the present of the economic benefits available in the form of the unconditional right to reduced contributions from the plan. A corresponding charge has been made to other comprehensive income in the period.

28. Related Party Transactions

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

During the year purchases of £130,061, not inclusive of VAT, (2024: £137,134) were made from School Improvements Liverpool, a company where David Cadwallader, Chair of Trustee Board, is employed. Included within trade creditors are amounts of £7,147 (2024: £10,648) owed to School Improvement Liverpool.

29. Schools transferred from Local Authority on conversion

On 1 July 2025, Well Lane Primary School converted to academy trust status under the Academies Act 2010 and assets and liabilities were transferred to Rainbow Education Multi-Academy Trust from Wirral local authority for £nil consideration.

The substance of the transfer is that of a gift and it has been accounted for on that basis. The assets and liabilities transferred were valued at their fair value and recognised in the balance sheet under the appropriate headings, with a corresponding net amount recognised as net gain in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The following table sets out the fair values of the identifiable assets and liabilities transferred and an analysis of their recognition in the SoFA.

Notes to the accounts
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

29. Schools transferred from Local Authority on conversion (continued)

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted General Funds £'000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £'000	Total £'000
Tangible fixed assets				
Other tangible fixed assets	-	-	2,695	2,695
Current assets				
Cash at bank and in hand	-	-	-	-
Non-current liabilities				
Other creditors	-	-	-	-
Defined benefit pension obligation	-	-	-	-
Net assets/(liabilities)	-	-	2,695	2,695

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

30. Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted General funds £000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £000	Total 2024 £000
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	2	17	307	460	784
Conversion of maintained school into the academy trust		-	-	3,001	3,001
Charitable activities:					
Funding for the Academy Trust's educational activities	3	-	15,304	-	15,304
Other trading activities	4	1,226	-	-	1,226
Investments	5	-	-	-	-
Total income		1,243	15,611	3,461	20,315
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		-	-	-	-
Charitable activities:					
Academy Trust educational operations	7	30	16,324	469	16,823
Other		-	-	-	-
Total expenditure		30	16,324	469	16,823
Net income / (expenditure)		1,213	(713)	2,992	3,492
Transfers between funds	16	(1,020)	969	51	-
Other recognised gains / (losses):					
Actuarial gains / (losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	26	-	38	-	38
Net movement in funds		193	294	3,043	3,530
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		476	(1,966)	24,031	22,541
Total funds carried forward		669	(1,672)	27,074	26,071