

Company registration number 07570395 (England and Wales)

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

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THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members

Chester Diocesan Board of Education
Professor G White (appointed by the Chester Bluecoat Church of England Education Foundation)
The Diocesan Bishop
The Chair of the Governors

Trustees

Mr D Walsh (Co-Chairperson)
Mr R I Mainard (Co-Chairperson)
Dr M Bird
Ms H Cairns (Headteacher & Accounting Officer)
Mr S D Corley
Dr L Edwards
Ms S K Emes-Young
Mr A Hardman
Dr E Hemmings
Mr J Price
Revd Canon Mr A J Stinson
Mr A I Taylor
Rev P Towner (Resigned 2 November 2024)
Ms F Jones (Appointed 31 March 2025)
Ms J Stratford (Appointed 31 March 2025)

Senior Leadership Team

- Headteacher, CEO and Accounting Officer
- Chief Finance Officer
- Deputy Heads
- Assistant Heads

Ms H Cairns
Mrs A Beasley
Ms C Robbins, Mr A Carr
Miss V Burton, Mr A Owen, Dr D Kay

Company secretary

Mrs A Beasley

Company registration number

07570395 (England and Wales)

Principal and registered office

Vaughans Lane
Great Boughton
Chester
CH3 5XF

Independent auditor

Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited
24 Nicholas Street
Chester
CH1 2AU

Bankers

Lloyds Bank plc
8 Foregate Street
Chester
CH1 1XP

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

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 and strategic report under company law.

The academy trust operates a non-selective and inclusive academy for students aged 11 to 18, with a designated Church of England religious character offering a broad and balanced curriculum conducted in accordance with the principles, practices and tenets of the Church of England both generally and in particular in relation to arranging for religious education and daily acts of worship (as required by the Funding Agreement), and in having regard to the advice of the Diocesan Board of Education. It had a roll of 1,249 (Capacity 1,200) on the 2025 school census.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

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

The governors act as the trustees of The Bishops' Blue Coat Church of England High School and are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. Details of the trustees who served during the year, and to the date these financial statements are approved, are included in the reference and administrative details on page 1.

Members' liability

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

Trustees' indemnities

The academy trust has opted into the Department for Education's Risk Protection Arrangement which indemnifies trustees whilst on academy business.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of trustees

The members must appoint a minimum of twelve governors which includes a minimum of six governors appointed by the Chester Diocesan Board of Education, a minimum of five to be appointed by the Chester Blue Coat Church of England Educational Foundation and one governor to be appointed by the Diocesan Bishop. The members may appoint up to three staff governors and the principal is treated for all purposes as an ex officio governor. Up to three parent governors may be elected by parents and up to two co-opted governors can be appointed. A chair and vice chair of governors are elected each year at the first meeting of the academic year. In the event that the chair ceases to be a governor or resigns the role of chair, the vice chair assumes the role until the next meeting of the full governing body.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

All newly appointed governors receive an induction by the secretary to the governors. This includes the provision of all relevant papers and reports and a tour of the school in which they meet senior staff. All newly appointed governors complete a skills audit, relevant training and are subject to the necessary Disclosure and Barring Service checks.

All governors complete an annual skills audit and there is an annual plan of in-house and recommended external training. Governors are provided with information about training courses organised by the Diocesan Board of Education, the Local Authority and other providers and are encouraged to attend appropriate courses. The governing body also has membership of a number of organisations that offer online governance resources and training courses. There is a governor training budget.

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Organisational structure

The management structure consists of two levels, the governors who are trustees and the senior management of the academy. The aim of the structure is to devolve responsibility to those best able to make appropriate decisions.

The governors are there to support and hold to account the senior management team and to support the community in the running of the academy and have no ambition to run the academy on a day to day basis. Along with this governance role the trustees are there to give support and advice when asked and to be roving ambassadors for the academy.

The governing body is responsible for setting the aims and objectives, setting policies and targets for achieving the objectives, reviewing progress and reviewing the strategic framework in the light of progress. The governing body acts as a "critical friend" to the head teacher by providing advice and support.

The head teacher is responsible for the internal organisation and control of the school and for advising on and implementing the governing body's strategic framework. The Scheme of Delegation of the Academy Trust is published on the trust's website.

During the year ended 31 August 2025 the full governing body met four times in: September, December, March and July. They also held a strategy focused session in May. The Annual General Meeting of the members of the academy was held in January 2025.

During the year ended 31 August 2025 there were four committees and four sub committees and panels.

The four committees were:

- Resources Committee
- Students Committee
- Audit Committee
- Chairs Group

The four sub-committees and panels were:

- Head Teacher Performance Management Committee
- Staff Disciplinary/Dismissal/Grievance/ Pay Panel
- Students Disciplinary Panel
- Complaints Panel

The Resources Committee and Students Committee each met six times during the year. The Audit Committee met three times during the year and the Chairs Group met once. The sub-committees and panels met as and when required and membership of all but the Head Teacher Performance Management Committee was ad hoc.

The full governing body reserves the right to set the school budget. In this, the governing body was advised by the Resources Committee.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The Resources Committee monitor pay and remuneration. Remuneration of key management personnel comprising the senior leadership team is reviewed as roles change.

Trade union facility time

There was one relevant trade union official who was a full time employee during the year. There was no time spent on union facility time and the associated cost was £nil. There was no time spent on paid trade union activities.

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

The members, board of trustees, academy committee members and the accounting officer all complete a pecuniary interest declaration on an annual basis. This declaration sets out any relationship with the academy trust that is not directly related to their duties within these roles. Each individual is also required to declare a potential 'conflict of interest' if it arises between such declarations. Once a declaration has been made, the individual concerned takes no further part in any decision relating to the matter declared. Any related party transactions that have occurred are disclosed in the notes to the accounts.

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The vision for The Bishops' Blue Coat Church of England High School during the year ended 31 August 2025 was that 'The Bishops' Blue Coat Church of England High School is an exciting place to be. We know, nurture, and inspire our community to be the best version of themselves through a better understanding of the Christian faith, our core values, and a rich set of opportunities. Students achieve academically whilst growing personally and spiritually. Through their engagement in society and beyond, our students make a positive difference through wise action, resilience, and a sense of responsibility. Our community is enabled to live life guided by Jesus, to flourish and have "life in all its fullness" (John 10:10)'

The school curriculum and activities are rooted in the Church of England Vision for Education

- Dignity and Respect
- Hope and Aspiration
- Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills

Objectives, strategies and activities

In order to achieve these aims the School Improvement Plan for the year ended 31 August 2025 included the following priority areas:

1. Reading
2. Stakeholder engagement
3. Curriculum development
4. Assessment design
5. High quality teaching
6. Intervention

Key activities which helped to achieve these objectives were:

- **Reading:** We enhanced staff training in reading, with continued CPD for teaching staff in our forensic reading programme for Years 7–11, and introduced reading assessments for these students to monitor reading levels and progress. We also created reading buddies, encouraging students from Sixth Form to support our Year 7 readers who needed extra support. There is dedicated time in the schools LIFE programme where students have a dedicated 30 minutes in form time per week focused on reading. Students in Key Stage 3 have lessons in our library as part of their timetable.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** In addition to achieving the Diana Respect Award again, we made significant strides in fostering stronger relationships with our school community. The 'Chester Schools Together' partnership has continued to flourish, increasing links with local schools and deepening engagement with the Diocese. We also expanded social action projects across all year groups. Furthermore, we engaged parents through our parental forums, which provided valuable feedback on the school's reporting and assessment practices, along with our behaviour and rewards policies. This forum allowed parents to contribute directly to the design of school reports, ensuring they better meet the needs of families and provide clearer insights into student progress. Our community partnerships have flourished, with art and music projects in our local community. We have also worked with the City of Sanctuary creating an A-Z art trail through the city of Chester in celebration of Refugee Week and our work with the homeless charities in Chester raised money and awareness with annual cathedral service. Our students have supported diocesan projects both at their annual conference on Diversity and in the local primary schools.

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

- **Curriculum Development:** Curriculum intent and sequencing were reviewed through the annual subject leader's conference, leadership meetings, and departmental quality assurance processes
- **Assessment Design:** We involved stakeholders, including staff and parents, in shaping our assessment strategies. The introduction of regular consultation on assessment practices with teaching staff and parents has influenced positively on the school's approach to student progress reporting, with adjustments made based on feedback from both internal reviews and the parental forum.
- **Teaching & Learning:** Continuous Professional Development (CPD) focused on enhancing retrieval practices, and do now activities were introduced and successfully embedded into teaching strategies as well as 'teaching to the top'.

Reflections on the Year: The 2024–25 academic year was positive, but challenges remain as the school continues to address the lingering effects of the "Covid hangover." An increase in poor behaviour and undiagnosed Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) from primary school intakes has placed extra pressure on pastoral resources. Although staff turnover remained lower than the national average, there were a number of vacancies throughout the year not filled. Staff absence compared to the previous year has improved. Recruiting teaching assistants also proved more difficult, given the growing local and national demand for SEND support.

The school's vision is well embedded, as reflected in the recent Ofsted report "Leaders are committed to the school's continued mission for all to be the best version of themselves".

Public benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities, the trustees have carefully considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

The Bishops' Blue Coat Church of England High School underwent a two-day ungraded Ofsted inspection in April 2025. Inspectors highlighted that the strategic changes and the review of the school vision in 2023 are having a demonstrably positive impact. The school's vision to "know, nurture and inspire all" is lived out daily, with pupils benefitting from strong pastoral support and a culture of high expectations for both academic and personal achievement. Staff morale is high, with overwhelming positivity about working at the school, and leaders are committed to ensuring all can "be the best version of themselves".

Key performance indicators

A key non-financial performance indicator for all schools is parental demand. The number of preferences received by the local authority regularly exceeds the places available, and for September 2025, a high number of first place choices were made for admission to Year 7 at 210.

The school's self-evaluation had already identified areas for improvement, which are being addressed through the School Improvement Plan 2025–2026. Academic outcomes this year were impressive: 87% of the GCSE cohort achieved a grade 4+ in English (national average: 70%), and 86% achieved a 4+ in Maths (national average: 71%). Notably, 27% of students achieved a grade 7+ (national average: 23%). At post-18, the breadth of the course offer enabled students to progress to their chosen destinations, with 23% of the combined A level and BTEC cohort achieving A*–A and 41% achieving A*–B.

Sixth form provision remains a focus for development, with numbers growing year on year and a current cohort of 200 across Years 12 and 13. Attendance remains good, averaging 91% before S code removal, and is a regular focus in inclusion meetings. The school's personal development programme is well embedded, as reflected in positive Ofsted comments, and students benefit from a wide range of extra-curricular and leadership opportunities. Safeguarding arrangements are effective, and the school continues to provide a calm, purposeful environment where pupils feel happy, safe, and well supported

Key measures of success:

- Reviewed strategic plan 2025– 2028
- Achieve Ofsted Good across all judgement areas.
- A motivational CPD programme for all that builds on prior knowledge, develops and embeds practice and seeks to be increasingly transformational
- Assessment policy embedded and guides improved formative and summative assessment for learning
- P8 positive continued
- Maths/English level 5+ >60%
- Sustained reductions in the number of suspensions/exclusions for high needs students
- Gaps for SEND and disadvantage < national averages (progress/attendance/progress
- Oversubscribed, with in year movement
- Viable student numbers are opting for KS4/5 courses
- Growing awareness and understanding of aims, scope, purpose of LIFE programme across all stakeholders
- Destinations data for KS4 and KS5 exceeds national average > 95%

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the board of trustees has a reasonable expectation that the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, the board of trustees continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the statement of accounting policies.

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Financial review

Most of the trust's income is obtained from the DfE in the form of grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE during the year and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the statements of financial activities. The principal accounting policies adopted during the year are detailed in the notes to the financial statements.

During the year ended 31 August 2025, total expenditure of £9,317,000 (2024: £8,901,000) was fully covered by grant funding from the DfE together with other incoming resources. The excess of income over expenditure (excluding actuarial losses on the defined benefit pension scheme) was £2,414,000 (2024: £4,480,000). Successful CIF bids in the year contributed £2,555,464 (2024: £4,661,000) to incoming resources.

As at the 31 August 2025, the net book value of fixed assets was £13,855,000 (2024: £12,897,000), including the value of the land and building which are on a 125-year lease. The assets are used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the academy.

Reserves policy

The trustees regularly review the reserve levels of the academy. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The trustees take into consideration the future plans of the academy, the uncertainty over future income streams and other key risks (such as pupil numbers) identified during the risk review. The trustees aim to maintain a minimum level of unrestricted reserves of £500,000. The reason for this is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies.

The trust has overall reserves of £20,204,000 (2024: £17,869,000), included within which is restricted general reserves (excluding pension & fixed asset reserves) of £nil (2024: £nil) and unrestricted reserves of £937,000 (2024: £990,000). The total free reserves (excluding pension & fixed asset reserves) amounts to £937,000 (2024: £990,000). This is in excess of the agreed minimum of £500,000. £300,000 of the free reserves was used in the year ended 31 August 2025 being the school's contribution to the successful CIF bid for roof work. There are uncertainties over future funding and costs, therefore the trustees consider that the excess is likely to be utilised in the coming years and may be required for expenditure on capital projects for which other funding is unavailable.

The pension scheme asset as at 31 August 2025 was restricted to £nil (2024: £nil). The vast majority of the movement of the pension scheme liability is due to actuarial assumptions and does not have a direct cash impact.

Investment policy

The academy's investment policy is consistent with its charitable status. Investments must always be made in accordance with written procedures adopted by the trustees and must always ensure the maximum integrity of such investments. The priority is for the academy to have cash invested in liquid investments that bear minimal risk by spreading investments among different banks.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The principal financial risks and uncertainties facing the academy trust are managing the increased payroll costs as a result of nationally agreed pay increases, increased energy costs and general inflationary pressures. The major risk faced by the academy is that government funding levels will not reflect these increased costs.

Another associated risk is a potential fall in student numbers due to increased competition from local schools. The academy is addressing this by ensuring that our students are fully aware of the distinct opportunities and favourable outcomes provided by The Bishops' Blue Coat Church of England High School.

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

The principal operational risk that all academies face is cyber security. The academy has met the conditions to be eligible for RPA Cyber cover, however a cyber incident could have a significant effect on the operations of the academy whilst it is being resolved.

The academy has a formal risk management process to identify and assess risks and to implement risk management strategies. A risk register is maintained and reviewed annually with higher scoring risks being reviewed with greater frequency. This includes consideration of those risks impacting on the trustees' responsibilities to ensure the trust's estate is safe, well maintained and complies with relevant regulation.

The financial instruments that the academy deals with are largely bank balances and trade creditors with limited trade and other debtors and therefore its financial risk is minimal

The trust's pension schemes are managed by 3rd parties and the LGPS is the only scheme reported on the trust's balance sheet. As the trustees consider that the academy is able to meet its known annual contribution commitments for the foreseeable future, the risk from this liability is minimised.

Fundraising

The academy trust does not use any external fundraisers. The academy undertakes a variety of fundraising activities to support several charities and the trust itself. All fundraising undertaken during the year was monitored by the trustees.

Streamlined energy and carbon reporting

As the academy trust has not consumed more than 40,000 kWh of energy in this reporting period, it qualifies as a low energy user under these regulations and is not required to report on its emissions, energy consumption or energy efficiency activities.

Plans for future periods

We will continue our drive to raise achievement and maximise student performance. There are three strategic priorities for the coming years – in addition to academic achievement we will ensure that our students develop key life attributes, feel valued, safe, and able to flourish.

Key Priority One: Knowing our students, our community, our context and our Christian vision and values.

- 1a) Strengthening strategic partnerships which enhance the schools' vision to serve Bishops' and beyond.
- 2a) Sustainable allocation of resources that the supports flourishing of all.

Key Priority Two: Nurturing excellence in teaching and learning so that every student makes good progress, enabling them to take advantage of a rich set of opportunities.

- 2a) Creating an equitable and fully inclusive environment that enables all to become the best version of themselves.
- 2b) Instilling a culture of high expectations, engagement, and excellence.

Key Priority Three: Inspiring growth and aspiration through an ambitious seven-year academic, personal, and spiritual curriculum so that all our students make a positive difference at Bishops' and beyond.

- 3a) Continually developing a curriculum which meets the needs of all learners, educates the whole person and prepares students for life.
- 3b) Being an oversubscribed school with an inspirational 6th form.

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Auditor

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

A resolution proposing that Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited be reappointed as auditor of the charitable company will be put to the members.

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 15.12.25 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Mr R I Mainard
Co-Chairperson

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Scope of responsibility

As trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that The Bishops' Blue Coat Church of England High School has an effective and appropriate system of control, financial and otherwise. However, such a system is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives, and can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

As trustees, we have reviewed and taken account of the guidance in the DfE's Governance Guide.

The board of trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Headteacher, as accounting officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between The Bishops' Blue Coat Church of England High School and the Secretary of State for Education. The accounting officer is also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The board of trustees has formally met 4 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of trustees was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Mr D Walsh (Co-Chairperson)	3	4
Mr R I Mainard (Co-Chairperson)	4	4
Dr M Bird	3	4
Ms H Cairns (Headteacher & Accounting Officer)	4	4
Mr S D Corley	4	4
Dr L Edwards	4	4
Ms S K Emes-Young	3	4
Mr A Hardman	4	4
Dr E Hemmings	3	4
Mr J Price	4	4
Revd Canon Mr A J Stinson	4	4
Mr A I Taylor	4	4
Rev P Towner (Resigned 2 November 2024)	1	1
Ms F Jones (Appointed 31 March 2025)	2	2
Ms J Stratford (Appointed 31 March 2025)	2	2

The governing body has maintained effective oversight through its regular meetings and structure of committees, which report into the full governing body. There are also Lead Governors appointed for strategic priorities and statutory areas who report into committees. Terms of reference are clear and well-understood ensuring each aspect of the governance structure operates effectively and there is no duplication, and there is a balance of detail and oversight. The Resources Committee receives financial reports at each meeting, and monthly management accounts are shared. The governing body receives direct reports and reports from committees to enable it to assess overall performance, and there is an annual session focused on strategy planning.

There have been two new governors and one governor who is no longer on the board. The new governors have been recruited to fill identified skills gaps and they have been supported with a thorough induction programme.

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Conflicts of interest

Conflicts of interest are managed by maintaining an up-to-date register of interests which is published on our website. This is reviewed at each meeting. Any conflict is highlighted in meetings and if a conflict arises this person would not be involved in the decision-making process.

Governance reviews

There is a Chairs Group which meets annually as a minimum. This group oversees the annual self-evaluation of the governing body and reports on a governance improvement action plan to the full governing body. This includes an assessment and recommendations in relation to governors' strategic role, governor development, training and succession.

Meetings

The Resources Committee is a sub-committee of the main board of trustees. It recommends to the full governing body, and monitors and evaluates, the annual budget, capital spending plan and three year financial plan. The Committee reviews, adopts and monitors financial policies and practice. The financial scheme of delegation is scrutinised by the Committee and recommended to the full governing body for approval. The Committee monitors and evaluates investments and has oversight of financial benchmarking. The Committee is responsible for ensuring appropriate staffing, and overseeing staffing policies and staff development, workload and wellbeing. It has oversight of the appraisal process and is responsible for applying the pay policy. The Committee has oversight of premises management and is responsible for site development

Attendance at Resource Committee meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Mr R I Mainard (Co-Chairperson)	6	6
Ms H Cairns (Headteacher & Accounting Officer)	6	6
Mr S D Corley	5	6
Mr A I Taylor	4	6
Rev P Towner (Resigned 2 November 2024)	1	1
Ms F Jones (Appointed 31 March 2025)	2	2
Ms J Stratford (Appointed 31 March 2025)	2	2

The Audit Committee is also a sub-committee of the main board of trustees. Its purpose is to assist the board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities for internal controls and for maintaining an appropriate relationship with the trust's external auditors.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Mr R I Mainard (Co-Chairperson)	3	3
Mr S D Corley	3	3
Dr E Hemmings	2	3

Review of value for money

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

The accounting officer considers how the academy trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the board of trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data or by using a framework where appropriate. The accounting officer for the academy trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

- Student attainment

Providing the best learning outcomes for all our students being our top priority. A measure of success is the excellent examination results achieved in the summer of 2025, showing continued progress, compared to our summer results in 2019, before the pandemic. The school continues to hold STEM assured status and also holds nationally accredited Careers Standard, RE Quality Mark and Arts Council Gold England Awards.

- Staff and student welfare

Following the expansion of the pastoral support team in 2022 – 2023 the school has sought continued professional development opportunities to support the welfare and wellbeing of staff and students. This has included Mental Health Lead training, Preventing Sexual Misconduct Training and Sexual Misconduct Liaison Officer Training. The school has signed up to the Staff Wellbeing Charter and there is a regular Wellbeing team who meet and discuss ways to continue to support and improve staff wellbeing.

Work continues with our most vulnerable students, with reviews to the behaviour and uniform policy completed to ensure they are inclusive. Creating a positive environment improving student wellbeing and help to reduce absence. The continued investment of school resources to support student needs is evidenced in the examination results this year which were in line with national averages and exceeded the position of the school in 2019.

Pupil premium funds are utilised to try to narrow the educational attainment gap. Accountability is through direct reporting (including VFM reviews) by the relevant assistant headteachers to the relevant governor committees, pupil premium strategies are published on school website and achievement outcomes are reported to full governors at least annually.

- Financial governance and oversight

The school benefits from a suitably qualified and experienced audit committee who review financial procedures, risks and controls.

The resources committee receives twice termly budget monitoring reports and the accounting officer, and trustees receive monthly statements with explanations of budget variances.

- Purchasing

In accordance with the academy's finance manual, the school regularly appraises contracts and services for value for money and renegotiates where appropriate. Purchasing consortiums are used to obtain economies of scale. Budget holders are held accountable for their budgets and are supported by the finance team in sourcing the best value for money.

- Estate

Where possible, our upskilled site maintenance team carry out many of the maintenance tasks and site improvements rather than bring contractors in. This effective use of funds ensures that the trust's estate is safe, well maintained, and complies with regulations.

- Maximising income generation

The school takes every opportunity to maximise income generated from the hire of its facilities. Investment in the sports facilities funded by both the academy and hirers has increased the attractiveness of these facilities for lettings and increased the associated income.

Surplus cash balances are invested in interest bearing accounts with investment institutions being carefully selected to provide the most acceptable balance of return and risk.

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

The purpose of the system of internal control

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

Capacity to handle risk

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

The risk and control framework

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

The board of trustees has appointed Strictly Education to provide internal audit services, providing expert and independent advice to the board. This option has been chosen as it provides value for money and an expert and independent service.

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

- Testing of information technology systems and in particular the cyber security systems and controls
- Testing premises health and safety systems and controls

The reviewer reports to the board of trustees, through the Audit Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities and prepares an annual summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Review of effectiveness

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

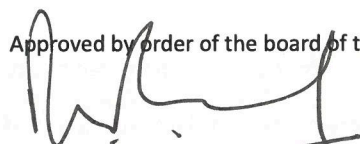
- the work of the internal reviewer;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process or the school resource management self-assessment tool;
- the work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework;
- the work of the external auditor; and
- correspondence from DFE, eg financial notice to improve/notice to improve (FNI/NtI) and 'minded to' letters.

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

Conclusion

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

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 15/12/25 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr R I Mainard
Co-Chairperson



Ms H Cairns
Headteacher & Accounting Officer

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

As accounting officer of The Bishops' Blue Coat Church of England High School, 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 the Department for Education (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.



Ms H Cairns
Accounting Officer

Date: 15/12/25

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

The trustees (who are also the directors of The Bishops' Blue Coat Church of England High School for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 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 judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 15/12/25 and signed on its behalf by:


Mr R I Mainard
Co-Chairperson

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Bishops' Blue Coat Church of England High School 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, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and 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), the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by the Department for Education.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2019 and the 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 'Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements' section of our report. We are independent of the academy trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the trustees' report including the incorporated strategic report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report including the incorporated strategic report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the academy trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report, including the incorporated strategic report.

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, 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 trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance;
- the charitable company's own assessment of the risks that irregularities may occur either as a result of fraud or error;
- the results of our enquiries of management and trustees of their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the charity's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
- identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
- detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas:

(i) The presentation of the Trust's Statement of Financial Activities, (ii) revenue recognition (iii) the overstatement of salary and other costs (iv) the assumptions used in the calculation of the valuation of the surplus or deficit on the defined benefit pension scheme and the movements for the year. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the UK Companies Act, the Statement of Recommended Practice - 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued by the joint SORP making body, along with the Academy Trust Handbook and Accounts Direction 2024-25 issued by the Department for Education.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the academy's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. This includes regulations concerning Data Protection and Safeguarding.

Audit response to risks identified

As a result of performing the above, we identified income recognition, override of controls and adherence to laws and regulations as the key audit matters related to the potential risk of fraud.

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

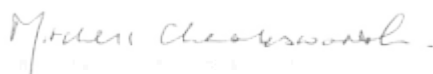
- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations described above as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management and trustees concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

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



Robert Hall (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited, Statutory Auditor

Accountants

24 Nicholas Street

Chester

CH1 2AU

Date: **17/12/2025**

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THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 1 September 2025 and further to the requirements of the Department for Education (DfE) as included in the extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts, 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 The Bishops' Blue Coat Church of England High School 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 The Bishops' Blue Coat Church of England High School 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 The Bishops' Blue Coat Church of England High School 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 The Bishops' Blue Coat Church of England High School 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 The Bishops' Blue Coat Church of England High School and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of The Bishops' Blue Coat Church of England High School's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education and the Academy Trust Handbook, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Approach

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountant of Academy Trusts issued by the 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:

- Reviewing the activities to ensure they are in keeping with the charitable objectives and framework.
- Reviewing declarations of interest and seeking further representations.
- Reviewing the control environment and considering potential weaknesses.
- Reviewing minutes of various committees, management accounts and holding discussions with key personnel.

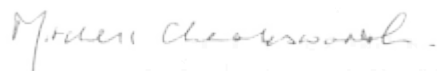
THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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.



Reporting Accountant

Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited

Date: 17/12/2025

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds:		Total 2025	Total 2024
	Notes	£'000	General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	£'000	£'000
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	47	27	2,550	2,624	4,807
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	8,433	-	8,433	8,021
Other trading activities	5	608	22	-	630	527
Investments	6	44	-	-	44	26
Total		<u>699</u>	<u>8,482</u>	<u>2,550</u>	<u>11,731</u>	<u>13,381</u>
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	8	<u>752</u>	<u>8,072</u>	<u>493</u>	<u>9,317</u>	<u>8,901</u>
Total	7	<u>752</u>	<u>8,072</u>	<u>493</u>	<u>9,317</u>	<u>8,901</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		(53)	410	2,057	2,414	4,480
Transfers between funds	16	-	(331)	331	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension schemes	18	<u>-</u>	<u>(79)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(79)</u>	<u>(110)</u>
Net movement in funds		(53)	-	2,388	2,335	4,370
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		<u>990</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,879</u>	<u>17,869</u>	<u>13,499</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>937</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>19,267</u>	<u>20,204</u>	<u>17,869</u>

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Comparative year information		Unrestricted	Restricted funds:		Total
Year ended 31 August 2024		funds	General	Fixed asset	2024
	Notes	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	108	25	4,674	4,807
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	8	8,013	-	8,021
Other trading activities	5	527	-	-	527
Investments	6	26	-	-	26
Total		<u>669</u>	<u>8,038</u>	<u>4,674</u>	<u>13,381</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	8	637	7,859	405	8,901
Total	7	<u>637</u>	<u>7,859</u>	<u>405</u>	<u>8,901</u>
Net income		32	179	4,269	4,480
Transfers between funds	16	105	(140)	35	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension schemes	18	-	(110)	-	(110)
Net movement in funds		137	(71)	4,304	4,370
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		853	71	12,575	13,499
Total funds carried forward		<u>990</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,879</u>	<u>17,869</u>

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025

		2025	2024
	Notes	£'000	£'000
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	13,854	12,897
Current assets			
Debtors	13	5,262	4,760
Cash at bank and in hand		2,523	1,549
		7,785	6,309
Current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(1,435)	(1,337)
Net current assets		6,350	4,972
Net assets excluding pension asset		20,204	17,869
Defined benefit pension scheme asset	18	-	-
Total net assets		20,204	17,869
Funds of the academy trust:			
Restricted funds	16		
- Fixed asset funds		19,267	16,879
Total restricted funds		19,267	16,879
Unrestricted income funds	16	937	990
Total funds		20,204	17,869

The financial statements on pages 23 to 49 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 15/12/25 and are signed on their behalf by:

Mr R I Mainard
Co-Chairperson

Company registration number 07570395 (England and Wales)

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

	Notes	2025 £'000	£'000	2024 £'000	£'000
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash provided by operating activities	19		354		417
Cash flows from investing activities					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		44		26	
Capital grants from DfE Group		2,027		220	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(1,451)		(838)	
Proceeds from sale of tangible fixed assets		-		1	
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities			620		(591)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			974		(174)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			1,549		1,723
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year			2,523		1,549

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1 Accounting policies

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

1.1 Basis of preparation

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 financial statements 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 the DfE, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the trust. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £'000.

1.2 Going concern

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

1.3 Income

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

Grants

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

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the statement of financial activities in the 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.

Sponsorship income

Sponsorship income provided to the academy trust which amounts to a donation is recognised in the statement of financial activities in the period in which it is receivable (where there are no performance-related conditions), where the receipt is probable and it can be measured reliably.

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.

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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.

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'.

Donated fixed assets

Donated fixed assets are measured at fair value unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor is 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.

1.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

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.

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

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 that require the continued use of the asset, the related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities and carried forward in the balance sheet. Depreciation on the relevant assets is charged directly to the restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

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

Leasehold Land	Straight line over 125 years
Leasehold Building	Straight line over 60 years
Capital Improvements	Straight line over 50 years
Assets Under Construction	Nil
Plant & Machinery	Straight line over 5 years
Computer Equipment	Straight line over 3, 5 or 7 years
Furniture & Equipment	Straight line over 5 years
Motor Vehicles	Straight line over 4 years

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

1.6 Liabilities

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

1.7 Leased assets

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

1.8 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.

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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.

1.9 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 chapter 3 part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

1.10 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 and the assets are held separately from those of the academy trust.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the academy trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary based on quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. The 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 are 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 net income or expenditure are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the statement of financial activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses. Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses.

1.11 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.

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.12 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.

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.

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Accounting 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.

Local Government Pension Scheme

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit asset/liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 18, 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.

FRS 102 section 28.22 allows an entity to recognise a surplus within the Local Government Pension Scheme "only to the extent it is able to recover the surplus either through reduced contributions in the future or through refunds from the plan". The actuarial report as at 31 August 2025 indicates a defined benefit asset position, which has been capped at nil value. This is on the basis that it is uncertain that a surplus following any triennial review would result in reduced contributions for the employer, and is unlikely to result in a repayment.

Critical areas of judgement

In the view of the Governors/Trustees, there are no further assumptions concerning the future or estimation uncertainty affecting assets or liabilities at the balance sheet date that are likely to result in a material adjustment to their carrying amounts in the next financial year.

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2025 £'000	Total 2024 £'000
Capital grants	-	2,550	2,550	4,674
Other donations	47	27	74	133
	<u>47</u>	<u>2,577</u>	<u>2,624</u>	<u>4,807</u>

4 Funding for the academy trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2025 £'000	Total 2024 £'000
DfE/ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	7,208	7,208	6,946
Other DfE/ESFA grants:				
- Pupil premium	-	194	194	202
- Mainstream Schools Additional Grant	-	-	-	210
- Core Schools Budget Grant	-	229	229	-
- Teachers' Pay Grant	-	108	108	108
- Teachers' Pension Employer Contribution Grant	-	133	133	89
- Others	-	157	157	52
	<u>-</u>	<u>8,029</u>	<u>8,029</u>	<u>7,607</u>
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	357	357	307
	<u>-</u>	<u>357</u>	<u>357</u>	<u>307</u>
COVID-19 additional funding				
DfE/ESFA				
Catch-up premium	-	-	-	49
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>49</u>
Other incoming resources	-	47	47	58
	<u>-</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>58</u>
Total funding	<u>-</u>	<u>8,433</u>	<u>8,433</u>	<u>8,021</u>

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2025 £'000	Total 2024 £'000
Hire of facilities	142	-	142	95
Catering income	426	-	426	399
Music tuition	13	-	13	11
Parental contributions	19	-	19	22
Other income	8	22	30	-
	<u>608</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>630</u>	<u>527</u>

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2025 £'000	Total 2024 £'000
Short term deposits	44	-	44	26
	<u>44</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>26</u>

7 Expenditure

	Staff costs £'000	Non-pay expenditure		Total 2025 £'000	Total 2024 £'000
		Premises £'000	Other £'000		
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	6,147	493	599	7,239	6,862
- Allocated support costs	1,100	500	478	2,078	2,039
	<u>7,247</u>	<u>993</u>	<u>1,077</u>	<u>9,317</u>	<u>8,901</u>

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Operating lease rentals	12	11
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	493	406
Gain on disposal of fixed assets	-	(1)
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	11	7
- Other services	5	5
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	(18)	(4)
	<u>502</u>	<u>424</u>

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

8 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2025 £'000	Total 2024 £'000
Direct costs				
Educational operations	752	6,487	7,239	6,862
Support costs				
Educational operations	-	2,078	2,078	2,039
	<u>752</u>	<u>8,565</u>	<u>9,317</u>	<u>8,901</u>

Analysis of costs

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Direct costs		
Teaching and educational support staff costs	6,147	5,824
Staff development	32	22
Depreciation	493	406
Technology costs	103	81
Educational supplies and services	299	282
Examination fees	111	123
Other direct costs	54	124
	<u>7,239</u>	<u>6,862</u>
Support costs		
Support staff costs	1,117	1,097
Depreciation	-	(1)
Maintenance of premises and equipment	312	273
Cleaning	10	11
Energy costs	128	179
Rent, rates and other occupancy costs	50	44
Security and transport	16	20
Catering	286	260
Finance costs	(18)	(4)
Legal costs	23	20
Other support costs	137	127
Governance costs	17	13
	<u>2,078</u>	<u>2,039</u>

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

9 Staff

Staff costs and employee benefits

Staff costs during the year were:

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Wages and salaries	5,329	5,108
Social security costs	572	481
Pension costs	1,291	1,131
	<u>7,192</u>	<u>6,720</u>
Staff costs - employees	7,192	6,720
Agency staff costs	55	171
Staff restructuring costs	-	2
	<u>7,247</u>	<u>6,893</u>
Staff development and other staff costs	49	50
	<u>7,296</u>	<u>6,943</u>
Total staff expenditure	<u>7,296</u>	<u>6,943</u>

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Severance payments	-	2
	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>

Staff numbers

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

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Teachers	70	69
Administration and support	110	100
Management	7	7
	<u>187</u>	<u>176</u>

The number of persons employed, expressed as a full time equivalent, was as follows:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Teachers	63	61
Administration and support	61	60
Management	7	7
	<u>131</u>	<u>128</u>

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

9 Staff

(Continued)

Higher paid staff

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

	2025 Number	2024 Number
£60,001 to £70,000	4	2
£70,001 to £80,000	3	3
£80,001 to £90,000	1	1
£90,001 to £100,000	-	1
£100,001 to £110,000	1	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £785,943 (2024: £712,650).

10 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more of the trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the academy trust. The Headteacher and other staff trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of Headteacher and staff members under their contracts of employment, and not in respect of their services as trustees.

The value of trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

- Ms H Cairns (Principal and staff trustee)
 - Remuneration £100,000 - £105,000 (2024: £90,000 - £95,000)
 - Pension £25,000 - £30,000 (2023: £20,000 - £25,000)
- Mr J Price (Staff trustee)
 - Remuneration £45,000 - £50,000 (2024: £45,000 - £50,000)
 - Pension £5,000 - £10,000 (2024: £5,000 - £10,000)
- Mr A Hardman (Staff trustee)
 - Remuneration £50,000 - £55,000 (2024: £50,000 - £55,000)
 - Pension £15,000 - £20,000 (2024: £10,000 - £15,000)

Figures above reflect remuneration for the whole year, not just the part of the year that the individual served as a trustee.

During the year there were no reimbursements (2024: £nil) made to trustees in respect of expenses.

Other related party transaction involving the trustees are set out in the notes.

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

11 Trustees' and officers' insurance

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

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

12	Tangible fixed assets	Leasehold Land £'000	Leasehold Building Improvements £'000	Capital Improvements £'000	Assets Under Construction £'000	Plant & Machinery £'000	Computer Equipment £'000	Furniture & Equipment £'000	Motor Vehicles £'000	Total £'000
	Cost									
	At 1 September 2024	1,054	7,550	5,764	674	254	669	356	54	16,375
	Transfers	-	-	496	(496)	-	-	-	-	-
	Additions	-	-	442	936	-	35	38	-	1,451
	Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	(20)	-	-	(20)
	At 31 August 2025	1,054	7,550	6,702	1,114	254	684	394	54	17,806
	Depreciation									
	At 1 September 2024	-	2,026	556	-	183	367	299	47	3,478
	On disposals	-	-	-	-	-	(20)	-	-	(20)
	Charge for the year	122	90	134	-	27	88	29	4	494
	At 31 August 2025	122	2,116	690	-	210	435	328	51	3,952
	Net book value									
	At 31 August 2025	932	5,434	6,012	1,114	44	249	66	3	13,854
	At 31 August 2024	1,054	5,524	5,208	674	71	302	57	7	12,897

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

12 Tangible fixed assets

(Continued)

There has been a change in accounting estimate on depreciation of the leasehold buildings in the year. Due to capital improvements made, the estimated useful life has been re-evaluated and put at 60 years from 1 September 2024 (previously 50 years 1 April 2011). As a result of this, the net book value of the buildings at 1 September 2024 is to be depreciated straight line over the estimated remaining useful life of 60 years per the accounting policy. The effect of this in the current and future years is to reduce the annual depreciation charge from £151,008 to £89,556.

The depreciation charge for leasehold land includes £112,121 which is a one-off adjustment for depreciation from the start of the lease up to 31 August 2024 that had not previously been recognised. The charge for the year was £8,432.

13 Debtors

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Trade debtors	13	9
VAT recoverable	58	148
Other debtors	10	5
Prepayments and accrued income	5,181	4,598
	<u>5,262</u>	<u>4,760</u>

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Trade creditors	293	756
Other taxation and social security	136	117
Other creditors	170	162
Accruals and deferred income	836	302
	<u>1,435</u>	<u>1,337</u>

15 Deferred income

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	<u>149</u>	<u>130</u>
Deferred income at 1 September 2024	130	168
Released from previous years	(130)	(168)
Resources deferred in the year	<u>149</u>	<u>130</u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2025	<u>149</u>	<u>130</u>

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

15 Deferred income

(Continued)

At the balance sheet date, the academy trust was holding funds of £149,000 received in advance for:

- Rates reimbursement - £19,000
- SEN - £71,000
- School trips - £9,000
- School transport - £9,000
- DfC grants - £14,000
- Charity income collected and due to be paid out - £14,000
- Others - £13,000

16 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)	-	7,208	(6,877)	(331)	-
Pupil premium	-	194	(194)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	627	(627)	-	-
Other government grants	-	357	(357)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	96	(96)	-	-
Pension reserve	-	-	79	(79)	-
	-	8,482	(8,072)	(410)	-
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	6,578	-	(211)	-	6,367
DfE group capital grants	31	24	(12)	-	43
Capital expenditure from GAG	968	-	(147)	331	1,152
LA Capital Grants	2,239	-	(53)	-	2,186
Other Grants	15	-	(2)	-	13
Condition Improvement Fund	7,048	2,526	(68)	-	9,506
	16,879	2,550	(493)	331	19,267
Total restricted funds	16,879	11,032	(8,565)	(79)	19,267
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	990	699	(752)	-	937
Total funds	17,869	11,731	(9,317)	(79)	20,204

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

16 Funds

(Continued)

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

Restricted general funds are to be applied to meet the day to day working commitments for the academy in meeting its objectives.

The pension fund relates to the academy's share of the (deficit)/surplus of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

The restricted fixed asset fund represents transfers on conversion, government grants received for the purchase of fixed assets and other assets purchases, less the depreciation costs of those assets.

The unrestricted fund represents resources which may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objects of the academy trust at the discretion of the trustees.

The academy trust is not subject to GAG carried forward limits.

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

16 Funds

(Continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2024 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	6,946	(6,806)	(140)	-
Pupil premium	-	202	(202)	-	-
Catch-up premium	12	49	(61)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	459	(459)	-	-
Other government grants	-	307	(307)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	75	(75)	-	-
Pension reserve	59	-	51	(110)	-
	<u>71</u>	<u>8,038</u>	<u>(7,859)</u>	<u>(250)</u>	<u>-</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	6,729	-	(151)	-	6,578
DfE group capital grants	41	24	(9)	(25)	31
Capital expenditure from GAG	965	-	(137)	140	968
LA Capital Grants	2,292	-	(53)	-	2,239
Other Grants	16	-	(1)	-	15
Condition Improvement Fund	2,532	4,650	(54)	(80)	7,048
	<u>12,575</u>	<u>4,674</u>	<u>(405)</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>16,879</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>12,646</u>	<u>12,712</u>	<u>(8,264)</u>	<u>(215)</u>	<u>16,879</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>853</u>	<u>669</u>	<u>(637)</u>	<u>105</u>	<u>990</u>
Total funds	<u>13,499</u>	<u>13,381</u>	<u>(8,901)</u>	<u>(110)</u>	<u>17,869</u>

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	General £'000	Restricted funds: Fixed asset £'000	Total Funds £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2025 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	13,854	13,854
Current assets	967	662	6,156	7,785
Current liabilities	(30)	(662)	(743)	(1,435)
Total net assets	937	-	19,267	20,204
Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	12,897	12,897
Current assets	1,030	602	4,677	6,309
Current liabilities	(318)	(352)	(667)	(1,337)
Accruals and deferred income	278	(250)	(28)	-
Total net assets	990	-	16,879	17,869

18 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 Cheshire 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 that of the LGPS related to the period ended 31 March 2022.

Contributions amounting to £155,688 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2025 (2024: £146,302) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

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

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

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

18 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

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

The result of this valuation was 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 the TPS in the period amounted to £1,021,944 (2024: £863,736).

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

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 21.4% for employers and 5.5 to 12.5% for employees.

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

Total contributions made	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Employer's contributions	319	319
Employees' contributions	94	98
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Total contributions	413	417
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THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

18 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

Principal actuarial assumptions	2025 %	2024 %
Rate of increase in salaries	3.40	3.35
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.70	2.65
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	6.05	5.00

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

	2025 Years	2024 Years
Retiring today		
- Males	20.6	20.4
- Females	24.6	24.5
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	21.5	21.3
- Females	25.5	25.4

Sensitivity analysis

Scheme liabilities would have been affected by changes in assumptions as follows:

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Discount rate - 0.1%	96	114
Mortality assumption + 1 year	184	206
Pension Increase + 0.1%	95	112
Salary Increase + 0.1%	3	4

Defined benefit pension scheme net asset

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Scheme assets	6,100	5,486
Scheme obligations	(4,594)	(5,149)
Net asset	1,506	337
Restriction on scheme assets	(1,506)	(337)
Total liability recognised	-	-

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

18 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

The academy trust's share of the assets in the scheme	2025 Fair value £'000	2024 Fair value £'000
Equities	3,294	2,908
Bonds	1,952	1,810
Property	793	713
Other assets	61	55
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total market value of assets	6,100	5,486
Restriction on scheme assets	(1,506)	(337)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net assets recognised	4,594	5,149
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The actual return on scheme assets was £294,000 (2024: £453,000).

Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Current service cost	258	272
Interest income	(282)	(253)
Interest cost	264	249
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total amount recognised	240	268
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
At 1 September 2024	5,149	4,641
Current service cost	258	272
Interest cost	264	249
Employee contributions	94	98
Actuarial gain	(1,078)	(27)
Benefits paid	(93)	(84)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 August 2025	4,594	5,149
	<hr/>	<hr/>

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

18 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

Changes in the fair value of the academy trust's share of scheme assets

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
At 1 September 2024	5,486	4,700
Interest income	282	253
Actuarial gain	12	200
Employer contributions	319	319
Employee contributions	94	98
Benefits paid	(93)	(84)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 August 2025	6,100	5,486
Restriction on scheme assets	(1,506)	(337)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net assets recognised	4,594	5,149
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Restriction of pension scheme assets

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Present value of defined benefit obligations	(4,594)	(5,149)
Fair value of plan assets	6,100	5,486
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net asset	1,506	337
Restriction to level of asset ceiling	(1,506)	(337)
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Net asset recognised on the balance sheet	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The net gain recognised on scheme assets has been restricted because the full pension surplus is not expected to be recovered through refunds or reduced contributions in the future.

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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

	Notes	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		2,414	4,480
Adjusted for:			
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income		(2,550)	(4,674)
Investment income receivable	6	(44)	(26)
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	18	(61)	(47)
Defined benefit pension scheme finance income	18	(18)	(4)
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		493	406
(Loss)/profit on disposal of fixed assets		-	(1)
Decrease in debtors		22	232
Increase in creditors		98	51
Net cash provided by operating activities		354	417

20 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2024 £'000	Cash flows 31 August 2025 £'000	£'000
Cash	1,549	974	2,523

21 Long-term commitments

Operating leases

At 31 August 2025 the total of the academy trust's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Amounts due within one year	11	11
Amounts due in two and five years	24	33
	35	44

22 Capital commitments

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Expenditure contracted for but not provided in the financial statements	259	750

THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

23 Related party transactions

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

The following related party transactions took place in the financial period:

The Chester Diocesan Board of Education is a member of the academy trust. The academy trust purchased services from the Chester Diocesan Board of Education in the year totalling £1,590 (2024: £1,770). A balance of £nil was owed to Chester Diocesan Board of Education at the year end (2024: £150).

E Hemmings (Trustee) is also a trustee of The Samara Trust. The academy trust provided services to The Samara Trust in the year totalling £480 (2024: £720). A balance of £nil (2024: £nil) was owed to the academy trust at the year end.

E Hemmings (Trustee) is also a trustee of Chester Blue Coat Church of England Educational Foundation. The academy trust received a grant in the year of £5,000 (2024 - £nil) from Chester Blue Coat Church of England Educational Foundation.

A Taylor (Trustee) is Financial Controller at The King's School, Chester. The King's School paid grant income of £12,730 (2024 - £13,972) to the academy trust during the year in relation to the Chester Schools Together Independent State Schools Partnership.

H Cairns (Trustee) has a close family member S Cairns who is employed by the academy trust as a teacher. S Cairns' appointment was made in open competition and H Cairns was not involved in the decision making process regarding appointment. S Cairns is paid within the normal pay scale for his role and receives no special treatment as a result of his relationship to a trustee.

H Cairns (Trustee) has another close family member E Coffey who is employed by the academy trust as a supply teacher. E Coffey's appointment was made in open competition and H Cairns was not involved in the decision making process regarding appointment. E Coffey is paid within the normal pay scale for his role and receives no special treatment as a result of his relationship to a trustee.

S Greenhalgh (Trustee) has a close family member J Evans who is employed by the academy trust as Pastoral Manager. J Evans' appointment was made in open competition and S Greenhalgh was not involved in the decision making process regarding appointment. J Evans is paid within the normal pay scale for her role and receives no special treatment as a result of her relationship to a trustee.

24 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 or she is a member, or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10 for the debts and liabilities contracted before he or she ceases to be a member.

25 Agency arrangements

The academy trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for ESFA. In the year to 31 August 2025 the trust received £11,103 (2024: £8,108) and disbursed £11,103 (2024: £8,378) from the fund. An amount of £nil (2024: £nil) is included in other creditors relating to undistributed funds that is repayable to the ESFA.

