



Shropshire Church of England Academies Trust

**SHROPSHIRE CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMIES TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED

5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025

*Company Limited by Guarantee
Registration Number: 15822004
(England & Wales)*

CONTENTS

	Page
Reference and Administrative Details	3
Trustees' Report	4
Governance Statement	16
Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance	20
Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities	21
Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements	22
Independent Reporting Accountant's Report on Regularity	26
Statement of Financial Activities	28
Balance Sheet	29
Statement of Cash Flows	30
Notes to the Financial Statements	31

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE ACADEMY, TRUSTEES AND ADVISORS

Members	Malcolm Maclean (Chair) Mark Davis The Venerable Dr Fiona Gibson The Diocese of Hereford Educational Trust Diocese of Lichfield Education Trust
Trustees	Malcolm Maclean (Chair) Sir Christopher Stone Carl Steventon Jane Martin Ian Wilson Martin Bennett Marie Parrish
Chief Executive Officer	Claire Gaskin
Central Team	
Chief Executive Officer	Claire Gaskin
Chief Financial Officer	Sandra Holloway
Director of Teaching and Learning	Elizabeth Docherty
Company Secretary/Property & Estates	Sian Lines
Principal and Registered Office	St Marys Bluecoat Church of England School Lodge Lane Bridgnorth WV15 5EQ
Company name	Shropshire Church of England Academies Trust
Company Registration Number	15822004
Independent Auditor	UHY Hacker Young (Birmingham) LLP 9-11 Vittoria Street Birmingham B1 3ND
Bankers	Lloyds Bank Sighthill North 2 Bankhead Crossway North Edinburgh EH11 4DT
Solicitors	VWV Narrow Quay House, Narrow Quay, Bristol BS1 4QA

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the period from 5 July 2024 to 31 August 2025. The Annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report, and a Directors' report under company law.

The newly formed Shropshire Church of England Academies Trust (SCEAT) is a joint partnership between Hereford Diocese and Lichfield Diocese. Incorporated in July 2024, with the founding group of eight primary schools joining on 1 February 2025, the Trust's vision is to provide high quality, fully inclusive learning opportunities to children across the early years and primary age ranges. The schools in the founding group are all in Shropshire. All 8 schools are Church of England primary schools. One of the schools, Bicton CE Primary School is a sponsored academy.

Founding Group of SCEAT schools:

Name of School	NOR Rec Y6	Address
Meole Brace CE Primary School	401	7 Church Road, Meole Brace, SY3 9HG
Christ Church CE Primary School	127	Sheinton Road, Cressage, SY5 6DH
Bicton CE Primary School	118	Bicton Lane, Bicton, SY3 8EH
St John the Baptist CE Primary School	91	Church Street, Ruyton-XI-Towns, SY4 1LQ
Bomere Heath CE Primary School	119	The Crescent, Bomere Heath, SY4 3PQ
St Mary's Bluecoat Primary School	175	Lodge Lane, Bridgnorth, WV15 5EQ
Worfield Endowed CE Primary School	141	Main Street, Worfield, Bridgnorth WV15 5LF
Beckbury CE Primary School and Nursery	47	30 Badger Lane, Beckbury, Shifnal TF11 9DQ
	1,219	

St. Mary's Bluecoat CE Primary School has a SEND Unit (Resourced Provision). This provides 12 commissioned places for KS2 age pupils who have an EHCP with SEMH/AS as their primary need.

At the heart of our school improvement strategy is a commitment to achieving a school led system in order to promote and secure outstanding levels of achievement for all children. The Trust has created three geographical hubs of schools across Shropshire which are built upon a successful model of collaborative working and affords schools an opportunity to enjoy all the benefits of working closely with colleagues in other neighbouring schools who are part of the Trust. While each of the schools in the Trust is unique, and retains its own identity within its community, we understand that the mutual challenge, support and partnership that we offer each other as a Trust working together, will enable our schools to flourish.

Sharing our Christian values, being warm and welcoming to all, knowing our children and their families well and a strong emphasis on meeting the pastoral needs of pupils are at the heart of our Trust's ethos. Subject to Trust due diligence, SCEAT is open to all Church of England primary schools, community schools, or single academy trusts across Hereford Diocese or Lichfield Diocese who are within the Shropshire geographical area.

Structure, governance and management**Constitution**

The Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's Memorandum of Association is the primary governing document of the trust. The Trustees of Shropshire Church of England Academies Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purpose of company law.

The principal object of the Trust, as set out in those Articles, is to advance education for the public benefit by establishing, maintaining, managing, and developing academies that provide a broad and balanced curriculum consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England.

Details of the Trustees who served during the year are included in the reference and administrative details in page 3.

Members' Liability

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

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025 (cont'd)**Trustees' Indemnities**

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the charitable company has insurance in place to protect Trustees and Officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on charitable company business.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

In accordance with the Articles of Association the Members of Shropshire Church of England Academies Trust have the power to appoint and remove Trustees (Directors) by ordinary resolution. In addition, as a Church of England multi-academy trust, the Diocese of Hereford Educational Trust and the Diocese of Lichfield Educational Trust each have the right to appoint up to three Trustees, thereby ensuring that the Trust's Christian foundation and ethos are preserved within its governance structure.

During the period since incorporation on 5 July 2024, the Trust has established its procedures for the recruitment, vetting, and appointment of Trustees. All prospective Trustees are considered by the Members and, where applicable, by the diocesan appointing bodies to ensure that appointments are made in accordance with the provisions of the Articles of Association. Appointments are based on the skills, experience, and capacity required to discharge the Board's statutory responsibilities effectively and to support the strategic development of the Trust as it grows. The Trust recognises the importance of succession planning and intends to review its governance composition and skills matrix regularly to ensure the continued effectiveness and sustainability of the Board.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

As a newly established Trust, during the seven-month period following formation the Board has focused on laying the foundations for effective governance and Trustee development. The Trust has begun implementing its Trustee induction and development framework, with initial emphasis on ensuring all Trustees understand their statutory and strategic responsibilities. Induction materials and reference documents, including key Trust policies, financial information, and strategic plans, have been shared to support Trustees in their roles.

Formal mentoring and a structured training programme are being rolled out as the Trust matures, with early sessions prioritising safeguarding, financial oversight, and the principles of effective governance. The Board recognises the importance of continuous development and succession planning and has scheduled an annual review of Trustee skills and training needs to inform future governance capacity-building. The Trust seeks to provide guidance and training appropriate to ensuring effective discharge of statutory duties and for effective governance in driving the strategic direction and leadership of the Trust (and its schools).

Organisational structure

Since formation in February 2025, the Trust has continued to review and strengthen its organisational and organisational structure to ensure effective oversight, accountability, and capacity for growth across its academies. The central executive function is evolving in order to provide greater strategic and operational support to schools as the Trust develops.

The organisational structure of the Trust currently comprises three principal tiers:

- i) the Board of Trustees and the Executive Leadership Team;
- ii) the Senior Leadership Teams within each academy; and
- iii) the Local Governing Bodies (LGBs).

During the reporting period, the Board confirmed the appointment of the interim Chief Executive Officer to a permanent position, providing stable leadership for the Trust's next phase of development. To ensure continuity at school level, the Chief Executive Officer's former role as Executive Headteacher for three of the Trust's academies in the south hub of the Trust has been backfilled with an Interim Executive Headteacher. There is also an Executive Headteacher leading across the three academies in the north hub of the Trust. With the exception of Meole Brace CE Primary, each academy is currently led on a day-to-day basis by a Head of School or Acting Head of School, supported by the senior leadership team, with oversight and guidance from the Trust's Executive Leadership Team. Meole Brace CE Primary is led by a Headteacher who during this year also provided Executive Leadership to the other academy in the central hub. Executive Headteachers oversee staffing and resource allocation within agreed budgets, and report to both the Executive Team and their respective Local Governing Body.

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025 (cont'd)

The organisational structure is designed to devolve responsibility appropriately, promote accountability, and support continuous improvement in educational standards across all schools. Trustees are responsible for setting overall policy, approving the annual plan and budget, monitoring financial and educational performance, and making key decisions relating to strategic direction, capital investment, and senior leadership appointments.

The Trust's Scheme of Delegation sets out the respective authorities of the Board, Executive Leadership Team, Local Governing Bodies, and academy leaders. The Executive Team provides professional challenge and support to the Heads of School and leadership teams, ensuring alignment with Trust priorities and effective implementation of Board policies.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

Pay and remuneration are overseen by the Pay and Remuneration Committee which meets at least annually and is comprised of trustees. All staff are subject to a robust performance management policy and procedures which govern pay and awards and the CEO leads this area of Quality Assurance.

Trade union facility time

Under the provisions of the Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2017, where an Academy Trust has more than 49 full time equivalent employees throughout any 7 months within the reporting period, it must publish information included in Schedule 2 of the Regulations.

Number of employees who were relevant Trade Union officials during the relevant period full-time equivalent employee number -

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	-
1% to 50% (1 period per fortnight)	-
51% to 99%	-
100%	-

Trade Union Facility Time**Percentage of Pay Bill Spent on Facility Time**

Total cost of facilities time	£2,335
Total pay bill	£4,400,454
Percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time, calculated as: (total cost of facility time ÷ total pay bill) × 100	0.05%

Paid Trade Union Activities

Time spent on paid Trade Union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours calculated as:

(total hours spent on paid Trade Union activities by relevant union officials during the relevant period ÷ total paid facility time hours) × 100 Nil%

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

Shropshire Church of England Academies Trust (SCEAT) maintains a constructive and collaborative relationship with the Worfield Educational Foundation, a separate registered charity. The Worfield Educational Foundation exists to advance education in accordance with Church of England principles, primarily in the parish of Worfield, and has a long-standing association with Worfield Endowed Church of England Primary School, one of the academies within the Trust.

While the Foundation and SCEAT are independent legal entities with separate governance arrangements and charitable objects, they work in partnership where their respective aims align. The Foundation provides grant funding and other support to enhance the educational opportunities and learning environment for pupils at Worfield Endowed CE Primary School.

The relationship is governed by a spirit of collaboration and mutual respect, with clear recognition of the independence of both organisations.

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025 (cont'd)**Objectives and activities****Objects and aims**

Shropshire Church of England Academies Trust (SCEAT) is a charitable company limited by guarantee, established under the Articles of Association dated 5 July 2024. The principal object of the Trust, as set out in those Articles, is to advance education for the public benefit by establishing, maintaining, managing, and developing academies that provide a broad and balanced curriculum consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England.

In fulfilling this charitable purpose, the Trust aims to provide high-quality, inclusive education within a distinctly Christian ethos that promotes academic excellence, personal development, and spiritual growth. The Trust seeks to nurture flourishing school communities where every pupil is supported to achieve their potential and to make a positive contribution to society.

Vision Statement: *"Rooted in Christ, Flourishing Together."*

The Trust believes that every child is like a tree planted by streams of water—created to grow strong, bear good fruit, and bless the world. With Jesus at the centre of all we do, we help each other learn, love, and live well. The Trust's aim is to provide high quality, fully inclusive learning opportunities to children across the early years and primary age ranges through;

- realising potential by working together to develop everyone's education and enabling all to flourish
- empowering each CE academy within the trust to embody its distinctive Christian vision; sharing our Christian values, being warm and welcoming to all, knowing our children and their families well
- a strong emphasis on meeting the pastoral needs of pupils: promoting and delivering strong mental health and wellbeing support to all children and the Trust workforce including promoting opportunities for families, building in the unique natural beauty of Shropshire to promote positive wellbeing and opportunities to explore learning outside the classroom
- ensuring our ethos is underpinned by a strong knowledge and understanding of the impact of trauma and ensure our approach to supporting behaviour is trauma informed and attachment aware
- providing an ambitious and engaging curriculum within each academy
- ensuring the delivery of high-quality education to all young people across the academies through a comprehensive school improvement offer to all academies within the Trust
- creating an inclusive environment in all academies where all pupils and adults can truly flourish
- growing and developing the expertise and capacity of the Trust to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND who may require more specialist provision
- Skilled, effective and robust governance, overseeing efficient, effective, and compliant management of the trust's finances

Objectives, strategies and activities

During the reporting period, Shropshire Church of England Academies Trust (SCEAT) focused on establishing the core foundations required for effective multi-academy operation and sustainable growth. As a newly formed Trust, the primary objective for the year was to ensure that robust governance, financial management, and leadership structures were in place to enable the delivery of high-quality education in line with the Trust's Christian ethos and charitable objects.

The main objectives for the period were to:

- Embed clear governance arrangements and lines of accountability through the implementation of the Trust's Scheme of Delegation;
- Confirm and stabilise the Trust's executive leadership by appointing the interim Chief Executive Officer to a permanent role and securing interim leadership capacity for the three academies previously led by the CEO as Executive Headteacher;

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025 (cont'd)

- Establish key central functions, including finance, estates, and compliance, to provide consistent support and assurance across all academies;
- Review leadership structures within each school to ensure clarity of roles and succession planning;
- Begin the development of a Trust-wide School Improvement Framework rooted in Christian values and evidence-based practice; and
- Strengthen collaborative links between academies to share expertise and build a culture of collective accountability.

To achieve these objectives, the Trust adopted the following strategies:

- Establishing a central executive team with defined responsibilities for education, finance, and governance;
- Implementing consistent reporting mechanisms for educational performance, local governance and financial compliance;
- Engaging closely with both the Dioceses of Hereford and Lichfield to ensure alignment with the Trust's Christian character and governance requirements; and
- Initiating regular communication with academy leaders and Local Governing Bodies to reinforce shared vision and standards.

Significant activities undertaken during the reporting period included the formal incorporation of the Trust, onboarding of eight academies, appointment of interim and permanent senior leaders, and the establishment of financial control systems to meet DFE and Charities SORP requirements. The Trust also began developing its longer-term strategic plan, focusing on educational quality, leadership development, and operational efficiency. The Trust measures success through a combination of quantitative and qualitative indicators, including pupil attainment and progress data, safeguarding compliance, financial performance against budget, external audit outcomes, and feedback from external reviews. As a developing Trust, the focus for this period has been on ensuring strong baselines and consistent reporting to enable the Board to evaluate impact and drive improvement effectively in subsequent years.

Public benefit

The Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit as published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties. The Trust has admitted students in accordance with its admissions policy for the benefit of the public.

Strategic report**Achievements and performance**

A significant milestone for the Trust this year was its successful establishment on 1 February 2024. This achievement reflected the considerable work undertaken in the months leading up to conversion, including detailed planning across governance, finance, leadership, and operational systems. The strong preparation completed pre-conversion ensured that the Trust launched with clear structures, aligned expectations, and a shared readiness across all schools, creating a smooth and confident transition into Trust status.

During its initial period of operation, Shropshire Church of England Academies Trust (SCEAT) has focused on establishing the structural, cultural, and leadership foundations required to deliver its charitable purpose effectively. As a newly incorporated Trust (5 July 2024), the first reporting period centred on ensuring stability across its eight academies while building the capacity, consistency, and shared ethos necessary for long-term improvement.

Key Achievements**Governance and Leadership:**

The Trust worked closely with both the Diocese of Hereford Educational Trust and the Diocese of Lichfield Educational Trust to ensure that appropriate governance arrangements were in place to support the formation of the Board. This collaborative process was essential in aligning the Trust's founding Members, securing a balance of skills and Church school representation, and ensuring that the governance structure reflected the dual-diocesan character of the Trust.

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025 (cont'd)

Following this initial phase, the Trust successfully implemented its governance framework. The Board established its committees and operationalised the Scheme of Delegation, providing clear lines of accountability between Members, Trustees, and Local Governing Bodies.

This foundational work with both dioceses has ensured that the Trust's governance is rooted in strong partnerships, shared values, and a consistent understanding of the Church of England's vision for education. It also provides a sustainable model for future growth, ensuring that new academies joining the Trust will do so within a well-defined, collaborative governance framework.

Formation of the Central Team:

During the early stages of the Trust's development, additional capacity was created by drawing on the strengths already present within the existing staff teams. An experienced School Business Manager stepped into the role of Interim Chief Financial Officer, supported by central finance functions that were shared between two members of the administrative teams from the founding schools. Executive leadership was provided by executive leaders from the schools previously known as The Trinity Federation, who took on interim roles as Chief Executive Officer and Director of Teaching and Learning.

With this structure in place, the Trust established its core central functions, including finance, governance support, and compliance. These foundations have enabled the central team to deliver consistent oversight and effective support across all schools, ensuring clarity, stability, and strong operational frameworks. In April 2024, the Board confirmed the permanent appointment of the Chief Executive Officer, marking an important milestone in consolidating the Trust's leadership capacity.

Developing Future Leaders:

The Trust is actively investing in the development of future school leaders. During 2024/25, four acting heads of schools have been accepted onto the National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH), which will enhance their leadership skills and prepare them for permanent headship roles. This commitment to professional growth reflects the Trust's strategic focus on building leadership capacity from within, ensuring schools benefit from a strong pipeline of well-prepared, highly skilled leaders for the future.

Shared Services Model:

During 2024/25, the Trust has made progress in developing a shared central services model, including centralising most finance functions. Early indications suggest this is reducing administrative burdens, improving consistency, and providing access to specialist expertise for schools. This approach is helping school leaders focus on teaching and learning and providing a foundation for stronger oversight, accountability, and support. The Trust continues to make strong progress in developing its shared central services model designed to deliver efficiencies, secure economies of scale, and reduce costs for individual academies.

A key element of work in 2024/25 was the implementation of a new payroll system, managed by an external provider. This has been an intensive and highly detailed project, requiring close collaboration between schools, central teams, and the provider. The rollout has provided a solid foundation for improved consistency, accuracy, and oversight across the Trust's payroll processes.

Strengthened Collaboration:

Over the year, collaboration across the Trust deepened significantly as eight schools came together as a unified family with shared values and aligned objectives. The formation of the Trust marked the joining of two established federations alongside three schools new to working within a wider group. This created an opportunity to build a culture of partnership from the outset, ensuring all schools felt part of a coherent and supportive community.

The Trust also brought together schools from both Hereford Diocese and Lichfield Diocese, forming a joint partnership underpinned by shared principles. Both dioceses have provided constructive support throughout the Trust's development, helping to establish a collaborative and strengthening relationship.

In the period leading up to conversion, a regular cycle of meetings for executive leaders was introduced. This early investment in collective leadership proved invaluable, establishing strong professional relationships and shared approaches that supported a smooth transition in the early days of the Trust's formation.

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025 (cont'd)

Collaboration also strengthened across operational functions. The Chief Financial Officer developed a network for administrative and finance staff, bringing colleagues together through regular training sessions, meetings, and newsletters. This network not only supported consistency of practice but also provided a clear channel for problem-solving, communication, and mutual support across schools.

To further encourage shared leadership and coherent communication, a School Leaders' Forum was established to provide regular briefings and opportunities for collaborative discussion. This structure is helping to foster a collective understanding of Trust priorities and strengthened alignment across all schools.

Christian Distinctiveness and Educational Quality:

Through formation, the Trust strengthened its partnership with the Diocese of Hereford and the Diocese of Lichfield, embedding Christian distinctiveness across all areas of policy and practice. Notably, two of the Trust's academies — Bomere Heath CE Primary School and Beckbury CE Primary School — achieved a Judgement 1 (J1) outcome in their Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS). This grading confirms that *"the school is living up to its foundation as a Church school, and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish."* These results provide independent validation of the Trust's early impact on sustaining high standards of leadership, ethos, and provision in its Church schools.

Other notable SCEAT achievements in 2024/2025 include:

The Board has agreed a five-year Growth Plan to strategically expand the Trust's capacity and impact. As part of this plan, one Shropshire LA maintained CE school has received conditional consent from the Hereford Diocese to join the Trust. In preparation for this, the Trust has been working closely with the DfE RISE Advisor for the school and has been approved as the RISE partner, recognising the proven track record of the Trust's CEO and Director of Teaching and Learning in driving effective school improvement and raising standards and outcomes for pupils. These developments demonstrate the Trust's commitment to sustainable growth and its ability to extend effective leadership and support to more schools in the local area.

Another notable achievement for the Trust in 2024/25 is the provision of executive and day-to-day leadership for Morville CE Primary School (which is formally part of another multi-academy trust) through a service-level agreement. (This has been in place since 2019, pre-conversion). Morville appears in the 2025 ranked list of the best primary schools in Shropshire, achieving a score of 34/40, and securing a place in the top 19 schools. In addition, the school achieved a Judgement 1 outcome in its SIAMS inspection in June 2025. This arrangement underscores the Trust's capacity to extend its expertise beyond its own schools, demonstrating the effectiveness of its central leadership and collaborative model in raising standards and providing high-quality support across the wider educational community.

Among the eight schools in the Trust, St Mary's Bluecoat CE Primary School and St. John the Baptist CE Primary School both appear in the published "Best 19 Primary Schools in Shropshire" list compiled from The Telegraph league-table data. St. Mary's Bluecoat CE Primary School achieved a rating of 35/40. 71 percent of pupils met the KS2 standard. The average score in reading, writing and maths (out of 120) was 107. St. John the Baptist CE Primary School achieved a rating of 34/40. The primary school had 77 per cent of its children meeting KS2 standard. The average score in reading, writing and maths (out of 120) was 106.

The Trustees regularly review the performance of the Trust. Seven of the eight schools in the Trust have an overall 'Good' grading from Ofsted. Bicton CE Primary School is a sponsored academy and currently requires improvement. There is evidence of progress against the school's improvement plan objectives. Trustees evaluate progress by comparing previous results across all end of year outcomes to the current year, to help identify where progress had been made.

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025 (cont'd)

Key performance indicators:

As a developing Trust, the Board has placed emphasis on establishing consistent reporting and accountability systems across all academies. Success during this period has been assessed through both qualitative and quantitative indicators, including:

Pupil Outcomes and Progress

EYFS, Phonics and KS2 attainment against national and local benchmarks

Progress measures tracked termly with focus on disadvantaged and SEND pupils

Subject-specific attainment with emphasis on writing and greater depth outcomes

Quality of Education

Trust-wide curriculum alignment and implementation reviews

External moderation and internal validation of teacher assessment

Lesson visits, book studies, pupil voice and leadership monitoring outcomes

Inclusion and Personal Development

Attendance trends and persistent absence reductions

Behaviour and safeguarding indicators

Provision and progress for vulnerable groups, including disadvantaged and SEND

Leadership and Capacity Building

Impact of school improvement support and trust-led CPD

Development and deployment of subject leadership across schools

Collaboration and shared practice initiatives improving consistency

Stakeholder Experience

Pupil, parent and staff surveys demonstrating engagement and satisfaction

Feedback from external partners including school improvement advisers, SIAMS, and Ofsted

Governance and Compliance

Data reporting to local and trust boards

Clear lines of accountability and statutory compliance

Overall performance

EYFS 2024/25 outcomes by school:

	Worfield Endowed Church Of England Primary School	St. Mary's Bluecoat Church of England Primary School	Beckbury Church of England Primary School and Nursery	Christ Church Church of England Primary School	Bomere Heath Church of England Primary School	St John the Baptist Church of England Primary School and Nursery	Bicton CE Primary School and Nursery	Meole Brace Church of England Primary School and Nursery	Local Authority - National	
Good Level of Development	80%	54.20%	66.70%	71.40%	53.80%	75%	80%	74.10%	68%	68.30%
Average no. ELGs at expected level	15.4	14	15	15.2	11.5	16.2	16.6	14.7	14.5	14.10%
All Goals, Exp+	80%	54.20%	50%	71.40%	53.80%	68.80%	80%	74.10%	67.30%	67%
Prime Goals, Exp+	86.70%	79.20%	83.30%	71.40%	53.80%	100%	100%	79.60%	75.90%	75.30%
Specific Goals, Exp+	80%	54.20%	50%	71.40%	53.80%	68.80%	80%	74.10%	69%	68.20%

Year 1 Phonics Check 2024/25 outcomes by school:

	Worfield Endowed CE Primary School	St. Mary's Bluecoat CE Primary School	Beckbury CE Primary School and Nursery	Christ CE Primary School	Bomere Heath CE Primary School	St John the Baptist CE Primary School and Nursery	Bicton CE Primary School and Nursery	Meole Brace CE Primary School and Nursery	Local Authority - National	
Cohort	23	19	6	16	14	12	14	58	2,811	634
Working at or above the expected standard	78.30%	73.70%	83.30%	50%	78.60%	91.70%	78.60%	82.80%	78.70%	54.60%

Key Stage 2 2024/25 outcomes by school:

	Worfield Endowed CE Primary School	St. Mary's Bluecoat CE Primary School	Beckbury CE Primary School and Nursery	Christ CE Primary School	Bomere Heath CE Primary School	St John the Baptist CE Primary School and Nursery	Bicton CE Primary School and Nursery	Meole Brace CE Primary School and Nursery	Local Authority - National	
Reading (test), Writing (TA), Maths (test) ≥EXS/Exp.Std.	38.10%	70%	66.70%	50%	60%	60%	22%	69.60%	57.20%	62.10%
Reading (test), Writing (TA), Maths (test) GDS/High Score	0%	6.70%	11.10%	11.10%	10%	10%	0%	6.50%	5.10%	8.30%
Reading - Expected Standard (EXS)	76.20%	83.30%	100%	72.20%	70%	80%	44%	84.80%	74.10%	75.10%
Reading - High Score	33.30%	16.70%	33.30%	33.30%	40%	40%	11%	47.80%	30.40%	33.30%
Writing - Expected Standard (EXS)	47.60%	83.30%	77.80%	61.10%	80%	80%	55%	69.60%	69.70%	72.20%
Writing - Greater Depth	0%	16.70%	22.20%	11.10%	20%	20%	0%	15.20%	10.80%	12.70%
Maths - Expected Standard (EXS)	61.90%	80%	77.80%	77.80%	70%	80%	22%	82.60%	70.80%	74.10%
Maths - High Score	23.80%	30%	22.20%	33.30%	20%	20%	11%	21.70%	20.50%	26.20%

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025 (cont'd)**Overall performance**

Early Years outcomes are highly positive in the majority of schools, with several settings performing significantly above both local and national benchmarks in Good Level of Development and demonstrating a consistently strong foundation in the Prime Areas. This early success is carried forward into Year 1, where almost all schools achieve well above national performance in the Phonics Screening Check, reflecting effective early reading provision and well-embedded phonics teaching. By the end of Key Stage 2, many pupils achieve outcomes in line with or above local averages, particularly in reading and mathematics, with notable strengths in combined attainment at expected standard in several schools. Schools with higher proportions of disadvantaged pupils demonstrate strong provision that enables children to thrive, and there are excellent examples of high achievement and depth in learning across the trust. Collectively, these outcomes reflect committed leadership, strong teaching, and a curriculum focus that enables pupils to build secure foundations, flourish academically, and continue making positive progress throughout their primary education.

While outcomes across the trust demonstrate many strengths, the data also highlights areas that require continued focus to ensure greater consistency and equity of progress for all pupils. A small number of schools are performing below local and national expectations in key measures, particularly in Early Years literacy-related goals and in the combined Key Stage 2 reading, writing and mathematics measure. Writing remains the least secure subject across multiple settings, with a need to strengthen both the proportion of pupils reaching expected standards and the number working at greater depth. In addition, variability in outcomes between schools suggests that the most effective practice is not yet fully mobilised across the trust, especially regarding provision for pupils with SEND and the delivery of a coherent mastery approach in mathematics. Sustained effort toward earlier intervention, targeted support, and professional collaboration will be critical in accelerating improvement where it is most needed. The trust is well-positioned to build upon existing strong practice and ensure that all pupils, regardless of starting point or school attended, benefit from consistently high-quality teaching and ambitious curriculum expectations.

Next Steps

Building on the early achievements, the Trust's strategic priorities for the coming year include embedding its school improvement framework, refining quality assurance processes, and developing Trust-wide data and curriculum strategies to drive educational excellence. The Board will continue to monitor progress through key performance indicators relating to High-Quality Leadership and Governance, Collaborative School Improvement, Achieving Good or Better Outcomes in All Schools, and Robust Trust-wide Business Systems.

Financial Outlook

As a newly formed Trust, SCEAT set an interim budget covering the period from conversion on 1 February 2025 to 31 August 2025 (seven months of the financial year). This budgeting exercise was undertaken in a context where several important financial variables were still to be finalised. At the point of setting the budget, the Trust did not yet have confirmed school carry-forward balances from the Local Authority nor finalised information about the continuation and cost of certain service level agreements.

By year-end, the Trust had successfully embedded core financial processes and gained clarity over the key funding drivers for each academy. This has provided a stronger foundation for monitoring, forecasting, and resource allocation going forward. The trustees are confident that the Trust is now well-positioned to strengthen its financial resilience and to ensure resources are directed towards the delivery of high-quality education and improved outcomes for all pupils.

The trust is almost entirely reliant on Government funding through the DfE for its income. There is a risk that the overall strain on public finances will lead to a real term reduction in school funding levels. Growing costs in relation to teachers' salaries and inflationary pressures on other costs such as power, agency fees, children's meals, technology and wider maintenance are increasingly threatening to compromise the financial viability of the trust. Teachers benefit from the Teacher's Pension Scheme (TPS) whilst other staff benefit from the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). Both are defined benefit (DB) schemes and, in line with other such schemes, employer pension contributions have increased over recent years to compensate for reduced returns. Pension costs are outside the control of the trust.

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025 (cont'd)

Whilst the trust is seeking to on-board a number of other primary academies to ease central funding pressures, without additional government funding, maintaining the current level and quality of teaching staff will be challenging. Similarly, the number of support staff employed in our schools will need to be carefully reviewed to achieve necessary financial savings, a reflection of the wider national picture of staffing pressures and budgetary constraints across the education sector.

Pupil Premium

The academies benefitted from pupil premium funding during the period. This has been used in various ways across all schools to strengthen student achievement including additional staff and small group withdrawal sessions.

For a more detailed analysis of expenditure please refer to each respective school's website.

Key Financial Performance Indicators

The academy trust established a financial budget and the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee monitor performance against budget during the period. Further financial and non-financial indicators are reviewed and reported to the Trust Board termly these are:

Number on roll; Next academic admissions - Accepted Numbers; % Free School Meals (FSM); % Pupil Premium; % SEN; Attendance; Teaching Staff Full Time Equivalent (FTE); Pupil/teacher ratio; Student outcomes at KS2; Recruitment Teaching (Costs); Staff turnover; Quality of Teaching and Learning; Quality of Leadership and Management; Number of Exclusions/Suspensions.

The trust continues to monitor potential risks, including the possibility of declining pupil numbers in certain schools due to lower birth rates.

The trustees consider that the following are key performance indicators for the academy trust:

	Pupil numbers	Staff costs as a percentage of DfE income	Staff costs as a percentage of total income	Capital expenditure per pupil*
School	2025	2025	2025	2025
Meole Brace CE Primary School	401	108%	84%	£Nil
Christ Church CE Primary School	132	110%	84%	£Nil
Bicton CE Primary School	120	83%	65%	£Nil
St John the Baptist CE Primary School	85	98%	72%	£Nil
Bomere Heath CE Primary School	109	90%	75%	£Nil
St Mary's Bluecoat Primary School	173	110%	90%	£Nil
Worfield Endowed CE Primary School	132	86%	75%	£Nil
Beckbury CE Primary School and Nursery	48	90%	77%	£Nil

*Due to delay in receiving capital balances from LA.

As the Trust develops these KPIs will be refined in line with both resource and risk management and risk mitigation strategies.

Going Concern

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

Financial review

The majority of the Trust income is received from the Department of Education (DfE) in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE during the period ended 31 August 2025 and the associated expenditure of these grants are shown as Restricted Funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Academy Trust receives grants for Fixed Asset Funds in the Statement of Financial Activities. The balance of the Restricted Fixed Asset Fund is reduced by depreciation charges on the assets acquired using these funds.

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025 (cont'd)

During the period ended 31 August 2025, the total expenditure (excluding depreciation charges and FRS 102 pension cost adjustments) of £5,674,000 was covered by the recurrent grant funding from the DfE, together with other incoming resources provided by Trust business activity (wraparound care, lettings and deployment).

The net book value of fixed assets at 31 August 2025 is £824,000. The fixed assets held by the Academy Trust are used exclusively for providing education and associated support services to the pupils of the Academy Trust.

The balance of total funds held at 31 August 2025 was £2,164,000 that comprised the following:

	2025
	£'000
Restricted Pension Reserve deficit	£Nil
Restricted Fixed Asset Fund	995
Restricted Funds	98
Unrestricted Funds	1,071

Financial risk management objectives and policies

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Trust is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances/of the Trust and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate its exposure to major risks.

Reserves policy

The Academy's reserves policy is to maintain the restricted and unrestricted income reserves at a sufficient level to sustain operations during the years when DfE grant funding may not be sufficient to cover annual costs. The unrestricted income reserve is to be used for financing any potential commercial opportunities.

Investment policy

The Academy Trust has no investments, with all funds held as cash with its Bankers.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties**Risk policy**

The objectives of managing risk across Shropshire Church of England Academies Trust are:

- To comply with risk management best practice
- To ensure risks facing the Trust are identified and appropriately documented
- To provide assurance to the Trust Board that risks are being adequately controlled or identified area for improvement
- To ensure action is taken appropriately in relation to accepting, mitigating, transferring and terminating risks

Within its policy the Trust has outlined its appetite and tolerance to risk. When responding to risks, Shropshire Church of England Academies Trust will seek to ensure that it is managed and does not develop into an issue where the potential threat materialises.

For risks which are assessed to have an exposure, which is not low, actions will be taken to reduce the risk to an acceptable level. Controls have been established by the Trust to review and monitor the effectiveness of the Trust in managing risk. These are reported to the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee and/or the Trust Board.

Fundraising

The academy trust does not use any external fundraisers. All fundraising undertaken during the period was monitored by the Trustees.

Plans for future periods**Future developments**

Looking ahead, the Trust has set out a clear three-year strategic plan designed to strengthen leadership, improve outcomes, and ensure that all schools benefit from a consistent and high-quality framework of support. The trustees' priorities for the next period have been shaped by the experience of establishing the Trust, the early work to align systems and practice, and the recognition of the varying needs across individual schools. This learning has informed decisions about where to focus resources, how to build capacity, and what structures are required to secure sustained improvement.

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025 (cont'd)**1. High-Quality Leadership and Governance**

Over the next three years, the Trust will focus on strengthening leadership at all levels and further embedding effective governance structures. Plans include the continued development of senior leaders, widening leadership pathways within schools, and ensuring robust safeguarding and compliance oversight across the Trust. Investment in governance training and clearer systems of accountability will support improved performance and contribute to enhanced outcomes for pupils. This work aims to ensure that every school is well-led, strategically guided, and supported to deliver high-quality education.

2. Collaborative School Improvement

The Trust will continue to build a culture of collaboration, underpinned by structured school-to-school support, shared best practice, and professional learning networks. Activities will include expanding the School Leaders Forum, developing subject and phase networks, and enabling schools to contribute to and benefit from collective expertise. This approach is intended to promote consistent improvement across all schools, strengthen teaching and learning, and build sustainable school improvement capacity. Trustees recognise that collaboration has been a key strength in the Trust's early formation and will continue to be central to future progress.

3. Achieving Good or Better Outcomes in All Schools

Improving outcomes for all pupils remains a core priority. The Trust will focus on embedding high-quality teaching and learning strategies, implementing targeted interventions, and refining systems for monitoring pupil progress. Support will be prioritised where it is most needed, with the aim of closing gaps for disadvantaged or vulnerable pupils and raising attainment and progress across the Trust. Resources will be allocated to areas that have the greatest impact on improving classroom practice and enabling schools to provide consistently strong educational experiences.

4. Robust Trust-wide Business Systems

Trustees also recognise the importance of a strong operational foundation. Over the next period, the Trust will continue to develop efficient and compliant business systems, with an emphasis on standardising policies and procedures and streamlining resource management. This work will support schools in focusing more of their time and energy on education and improvement, while ensuring operational effectiveness and strong financial and regulatory compliance. Investment in central systems and processes will also create a scalable model capable of supporting future growth.

Auditor

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware;
- 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.

The auditor, UHY Hacker Young (Birmingham) LLP, has indicated its willingness to continue in office. The designated Trustees will propose a motion re-appointing the auditor at a meeting of the Trustees.

The Trustees' report was approved by order of the Board of Trustees Annual General Meeting, as the company directors and members, on 15 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Malcolm Maclean
Chair of Trustees

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025**Scope of Responsibility**

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

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive Officer, 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 Shropshire Church of England Academies Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Conflicts of Interest

The Trust maintains a clear process for managing conflicts of interest to ensure transparency, integrity, and good governance in all decision-making. All trustees are required to complete a register of business and personal interests annually, and any changes must be declared at every board or committee meeting. This enables the Trust to identify potential conflicts promptly and take appropriate action to manage them. The register is reviewed regularly and held centrally. Trustees are asked to declare any relevant interests before discussions or decisions that may pose a potential conflict. Where a conflict is identified, the Trust has clear procedures in place to manage it, including restricting participation in discussions, excluding trustees from decisions, or recording the steps taken in meeting minutes. The information held on the register is used actively in the day-to-day governance and operational management of the Trust. This ensures that all decisions—whether strategic, financial, or operational—are made impartially and in the best interests of pupils, schools, and the wider Trust community.

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 twice during the reporting period. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Malcolm Maclean (Chair)	2	2
Sir Christopher Stone	2	2
Carl Steventon	1	2
Jane Martin	2	2
Ian Wilson	2	2
Martin Bennett	2	2
Marie Parrish	1	2

The Finance, Risk and Audit Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees which meets every half term as a minimum. Its purpose is to ensure the highest standards of stewardship and propriety are implemented and operating effectively across the Trust, in ensuring the effective Financial Management of the Trust including the delivery of Value for Money in its use of Public Funds. To ensure a safe and compliant environment is established and maintained for all its pupils and staff and ensure all legal, statutory and policy duties are effectively managed on a timely basis. They met twice during the year following establishment of the Trust in February. Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Malcolm Maclean	1	2
Carl Steventon (Chair)	2	2
Marie Parrish	2	2

The Education and Performance/Standards Committee is also a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees which meets every half term as a minimum. Its purpose is to ensure the highest standards of teaching and learning are implemented effectively across the Trust, to monitor closely the educational performance and

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025 (cont'd)

standards at each school, with the aim of identifying good practice to be shared, poor performance to be addressed and where direct intervention in a school is needed in order to secure rapid and significant improvements in pupils' outcomes. To determine compliance systems that give assurance that the Trust is meeting its statutory and legal responsibilities in relation to its educational outcomes, and to determine the extent to which the Trust's targets for pupils' educational outcomes are achieved. They met once during the reporting period. Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Sir Christopher Stone	1	1
Jane Martin	1	1
Ian Wilson	1	1
Martin Bennett (Chair)	1	1

The Pay and Remuneration Committee is also a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to meet annually each year and to consider and recommend to the board the trust's strategy and procedures for executive pay & remuneration package, design remuneration policies and practices to promote long term sustainable success aligned to the trust's charitable purpose and values. Review the ongoing appropriateness and relevance of the remuneration policy. Due to the timing of the formation of the Trust, this committee did not meet during the period being reported on.

Review of Value for Money

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

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

The Accounting Officer for the Trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by;

Implementing a range of measures to ensure resources are used efficiently and effectively across all schools.

Centralisation of the majority of finance functions has reduced administrative burdens for individual schools while providing access to specialist expertise, improving consistency in financial management and oversight.

The Trust has also established a shared central services model encompassing governance, compliance, and operational support, enabling schools to focus more of their time and resources on teaching and learning.

Procurement and resource management have been reviewed and standardised where possible, delivering cost efficiencies and reducing reliance on external providers.

In addition, investment in leadership development, including support for future school leaders and engagement in the NPQH programme, will provide long-term benefits by building sustainable capacity and ensuring high-quality leadership across the Trust.

These measures collectively demonstrate the Trust's commitment to securing strong outcomes for pupils while making prudent and strategic use of public funds.

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 SCEAT for the period 5 July 2024 to 31 August 2025 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025 (cont'd)**Capacity to Handle Risk**

The Trust Board has reviewed the key risks to which the trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Trust Board is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Trust's significant risks, which has been in place for the period of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Trust Board and discussed within each Trust Committee.

The Risk and Control Framework

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

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

The Trust Board has considered the requirement for internal scrutiny during 2024/2025 and has reviewed its internal controls as part of this. The Finance, Risk and Audit Committee oversee internal controls and ensure internal scrutiny is performed and reviewed on a regular basis. As part of the internal scrutiny in 2024/2025, the Trust Board appointed Validera as its Internal Auditor to perform their internal control checks and oversee all aspects of internal scrutiny, this has continued into 2025/26.

The Internal Auditor reviews all internal controls checks carried out and makes recommendations to the Board of Trustees, through the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee, on further actions that should be carried out to ensure our Trust is compliant with our internal controls and scrutiny. The work undertaken during the internal scrutiny audit included assessment of the governance framework, committee structures, decision-making, and scheme of delegation

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025 (cont'd)**Review of Effectiveness**

As Accounting Officer, the Chief Executive Officer 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 Chief Financial Officer
- the work of the External Auditor
- the work of the Internal Auditor
- the work of the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee within the Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework
- correspondence from the DfE.

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

Conclusion

Based on the advice of the Finance Committee and the accounting officer, the Board of Trustees is of the opinion that the academy trust has an adequate and effective framework for governance, risk management and control.

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

.....
Malcolm Maclean
Chair of Trustees

.....
Claire Gaskin
Accounting Officer

STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025

As Accounting Officer of Shropshire Church of England Academies Trust, I confirm that I have had due regard to the framework of authorities governing regularity, propriety and compliance, including the Trust's funding agreement with the 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 the DfE of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management.

I confirm that I and the Board of Trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds by the 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 the DfE.

.....
C Gaskin
Accounting Officer
15 December 2025

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025

The Trustees (who act as trustees of Shropshire Church of England Academies Trust and are also the Directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with the Annual Accounts Direction issued by the Department for Education, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards FRS102 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 academy will continue in business.

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

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

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

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

.....
Mr Malcolm Maclean
Chair of Trustees

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SHROPSHIRE CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMIES TRUST FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Shropshire Church of England Academies Trust for the year ended 31 August 2025 which comprise the consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the consolidated Balance Sheet, the Academy Balance Sheet, the consolidated 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 FRS 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 Shropshire Church of England Academies Trust's affairs as at 31 August 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025.

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 charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Academy Trust's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statement 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 Shropshire Church of England Academies 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 financial statements. 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 there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SHROPSHIRE CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMIES TRUST FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025 (cont'd)**Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

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

- the information given in the Trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report, and the Trustees' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' 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 charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' report. We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 21, 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 Shropshire Church of England Academies 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 to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SHROPSHIRE CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMIES TRUST FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025 (cont'd)

Based on our understanding of the Shropshire Church of England Academies Trust and the industry in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to the acts by the Shropshire Church of England Academies Trust, which were contrary to applicable laws and regulations including fraud, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006, Charities SORP 2019 and Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025. We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to inflated revenue and the Shropshire Church of England Academies Trust's net income for the year.

Audit procedures performed included: review of the financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation, review of correspondence with and reports to the regulators, including correspondence with the Department for Education, review of correspondence with legal advisors, enquiries of management and review of internal audit reports in so far as they related to the financial statements, and testing of journals and evaluating whether there was evidence of bias by the Trustees that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

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

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the academy trust's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the academy trust to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SHROPSHIRE CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMIES TRUST FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025 (cont'd)**Use of our report**

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

.....
Malcolm Winston
Senior Statutory Auditor
UHY Hacker Young (Birmingham) LLP, Statutory Auditor
9-11 Vittoria Street
Birmingham
B1 3ND

15 December 2025

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO SHROPSHIRE CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMIES TRUST AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 4 April 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 Shropshire Church of England Academies Trust during the period 5 July 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 Shropshire Church of England Academies Trust and the Secretary of State for Education in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Shropshire Church of England Academies Trust and the Secretary of State for Education those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Shropshire Church of England Academies Trust and the Secretary of State for Education, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Shropshire Church of England Academies Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of the Shropshire Church of England Academies Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 28 January 2025, and the Academy Trust Handbook for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Approach

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants 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.

Summary of the work undertaken was as follows:

- Analytical review of the Academy Trust's general activities are within the Academy Trusts framework of authorities;
- Consideration of the evidence supporting the accounting officers statement on regularity, propriety and compliance;

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO SHROPSHIRE CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMIES TRUST AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025 (cont'd)**Approach (cont'd)**

- Review of the general control environment for the Academy Trust on financial statements and on regularity;
- Confirmation that a sample of expenditure has been appropriately authorised in accordance with the Academy Trust's delegated authorities;
- Formal representations obtained from the Board of Trustees and the accounting officer acknowledging the responsibilities including disclosing all non compliance with laws and regulations specific to the authorising framework;
- Confirmation that any extra contractual payments such as severance and compensation payments have been appropriately authorised;
- Review of credit card expenditure for any indication of personal use by staff, principal or trustees;
- Review of specific terms of grant funding within the funding agreement;
- Review of related party transactions for connections with the principal/finance manager or trustees;
- Review of income received in accordance with the activities permitted within the Academy Trust's charitable objectives.

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 5 July 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

UHY Hacker Young (Birmingham) LLP
9-11 Vittoria Street
Birmingham
B1 3ND

15 December 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025
(Including Income and Expenditure Account)

		Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted General Funds £'000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £'000	Total 05.07.24 to 31.08.25 £'000
Income from:	Note				
Donations and capital grants	3	358	-	47	405
Transferred from Local Authority on conversion	3 & 29	804	1,010	1,057	2,871
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for the academy trust's educational operations	4	-	5,423	-	5,423
Other trading activities	5	255	-	-	255
Investment income	6	3	-	-	3
Total		1,420	6,433	1,104	8,957
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	7	95	4	-	99
Charitable activities:					
- Academy trust's educational operations	7	-	5,514	109	5,623
Total		95	5,518	109	5,722
Net income		1,325	915	995	3,235
Transfers between funds	16	(254)	254	-	-
Other recognised gains and losses					
Actuarial gain on defined benefit pension schemes	27	-	424	-	424
Asset ceiling adjustment	27	-	(1,495)	-	(1,495)
Net movement in funds		1,071	1,593	995	2,164
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	16	-	-	-	-
Total funds carried forward	16	1,071	1,593	995	2,164

All of the Shropshire Church Of England Academies Trust's activities derive from acquisitions and continuing operations during the above two financial periods.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025

	Note	2025 £'000
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	13	<u>824</u>
		<u>824</u>
Current assets		
Debtors	14	434
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>1,561</u>
		<u>1,995</u>
Current liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>(655)</u>
Net current assets		<u>1,340</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>2,164</u>
Net assets excluding pension liability		<u>2,164</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	27	-
Total Net Assets		<u><u>2,164</u></u>
Funds of the Academy:		
Restricted funds		
- Fixed asset fund	16	995
- Restricted income fund	16	98
- Pension reserve	16	-
Total Restricted Funds		<u>1,093</u>
Unrestricted income fund	16	<u>1,071</u>
Total Unrestricted Funds		<u>1,071</u>
Total Funds		<u><u>2,164</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 28 to 56 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 15 December 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
Mr Malcolm Maclean
Chair

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025

	Notes	2025 £'000
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net cash provided by operating activities	20	1,511
Cash flows from investing activities	21	50
Cash flows from financing activities	22	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		<u>1,561</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 February 2025	23	-
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2025	23	<u>1,561</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025**1 Statement of Accounting Policies**

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

Basis of Preparation

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

Shropshire Church of England Academies meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Transfer on conversion

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

Going Concern

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

Income

All 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 entitlement and are not deferred over the life of the asset on which they are expended. Unspent amounts of capital grant are reflected in the balance sheet in the restricted fixed asset fund.

• 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 receipt is probable and it can be measured reliably.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025**• Donations**

Donations are recognised on a receivable basis where there is certainty of receipt and the amount can be reliably measured.

• 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'.

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

• Transfers of leasehold property

Leasehold property transferred to the Academy from the local authority at little or no consideration will be revalued at fair value in accordance with FRS 102. This value will be recognised as incoming resources in the Statement of Financial Activities and will be included in the appropriate fixed assets category and depreciated over the life of the building.

• Investment Income

Interest receivable is included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis, and is stated inclusive of related tax credits.

Expenditure

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

• 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.

• Governance Costs

These include the costs attributable to the academy trust's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and Trustee's meetings and reimbursed expenses.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025**Tangible Fixed Assets**

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

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

Depreciation on the relevant assets is charged directly to the restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund. Depreciation is provided on a straight line or reducing balance basis on the cost of tangible fixed assets, to write them down to their estimated residual values over their expected useful lives. The principal annual rates used for assets are:

Leasehold improvements	10% straight line
Furniture and equipment	20% straight line
Computer equipment and software	33% straight line

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use.

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.

Leased assets

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

Investments - not applicable unless trust has a subsidiary.

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 as detailed in note 14. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 15. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

Taxation

The academy trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the academy trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by 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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025**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.

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

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

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

Fund Accounting

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

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

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

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025***Critical accounting estimates and assumptions***

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 28, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2025. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

The critical judgements that the Trustees have made in the process of applying the Academy Trust's accounting policies that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the statutory financial statements are discussed below:

The critical areas of judgement are accounting for government grants, accounting for the write down of assets through depreciation and accounting for the pension liability. Government grants are accounted for as restricted funds. The pension liability is assessed by an independent actuarial valuation. Depreciation rates are based on the expected life of the asset.

In assessing whether there have been any indicators of impairment assets, the Trustees have considered both external and internal sources of information such as market conditions, counterparty credit ratings and experience of recoverability. There have been no indicators of impairments identified during the current financial period.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025

(cont'd)

2 GENERAL ANNUAL GRANT (GAG)

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State the Shropshire Church Of England Academies Trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2025 (see note 16).

3 DONATIONS AND CAPITAL GRANTS

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 05.07.24 to 31.08.25 £'000
DfE capital grants	-	47	47
Transfer on conversion			
Fixed assets reserve transferred	-	933	933
Budget surplus on LA funds - capital		124	124
LGPS pension surplus transferred	-	1,010	1,010
Budget surplus on LA funds - revenue	804		804
Donations	358	-	358
	1,162	2,114	3,276

The income from donations and capital grants was £3,276,000 of which £1,162,000 was unrestricted, £1,010,000 restricted and £1,104,000 restricted fixed assets.

4 FUNDING FOR THE ACADEMY TRUST'S CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 05.07.24 to 31.08.25 £'000
DfE grants			
General annual grant (GAG) (note 2)	-	3,743	3,743
Rates relief grant	-	33	33
Other DfE grants			
Universal infant free school meals grant	-	69	69
Conversion grant	-	245	245
PE and sports grant	-	57	57
Pupil premium grant	-	151	151
Teachers pay grant	-	43	43
Teachers pension grant	-	54	54
National insurance contribution grant	-	55	55
Core schools budget grant	-	90	90
Other DfE grants	-	24	24
	-	4,564	4,564
Other Government grants			
Special educational needs	-	406	406
Early years funding	-	355	355
Local authority grants	-	19	19
	-	780	780
Other income from the academy trust's educational operations:			
Other	-	26	26
Pupil catering income	-	53	53
	-	79	79
	-	5,423	5,423

The income from funding for the Academy Trust's Educational Operations was £5,423,000 of which £Nil was unrestricted and £5,423,000 restricted.

(cont'd)

5 OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 05.07.24 to 31.08.25 £'000
Hire of facilities	13	-	13
Nursery & wraparound provision	138	-	138
Other income	104	-	104
	<u>255</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>255</u>

The income from the academy trusts' other trading activities was unrestricted for 2025.

6 INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 05.07.24 to 31.08.25 £'000
Bank interest received	3	-	3
	<u>3</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3</u>

The income from the academy trusts' investment activities was unrestricted for 2025.

7 EXPENDITURE

	Non Pay Expenditure			Total 05.07.24 to 31.08.25 £'000
	Staff Costs £'000	Premises £'000	Other Costs £'000	
Expenditure on raising funds				
- Direct costs	-	-	-	-
- Allocated support costs	94	-	5	99
	<u>94</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>99</u>
Academy's educational operations				
- Direct costs	3,749	-	283	4,032
- Allocated support costs	557	411	623	1,591
	<u>4,306</u>	<u>411</u>	<u>906</u>	<u>5,623</u>
	<u>4,400</u>	<u>411</u>	<u>911</u>	<u>5,722</u>

The expenditure was £5,722,000 of which £95,000 was unrestricted, £5,518,000 restricted and £109,000 restricted fixed assets.

	Total 05.07.24 to 31.08.25 £'000
Net (income)/expenditure for the period includes:	
Operating leases rentals	9
Depreciation	109
Fees payable to auditor for:	
- audit	20
- other services	6
	<u>6</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025
(cont'd)**8 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	Total 05.07.24 to 31.08.25 £'000
Direct costs - educational operations	4,032
Support costs - educational operations	<u>1,591</u>
	<u><u>5,623</u></u>

	Total 05.07.24 to 31.08.25 £'000
Analysis of Support Costs	
Support staff costs	557
Depreciation	109
Technology costs	47
Premises costs	302
Legal costs - conversion	196
Legal costs - other	3
Other support costs	236
Governance costs	141
	<u>1,591</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025

(cont'd)

9 STAFF COSTS

	Total 05.07.24 to 31.08.25 £'000
a Staff costs and employee benefits	
Staff costs during the period were:	
Wages and salaries	3,223
Social security costs	317
Pension costs	734
	<u>4,274</u>
Agency staff costs	126
Staff restructuring costs	-
	<u><u>4,400</u></u>
Staff restructuring costs comprise:	
Redundancy payments	-
Severance payments	-
Other restructuring costs	-
	<u><u>-</u></u>

b Staff severance contractual and non contractual payments

The academy trust paid no severance payments in the period.

c Special staff severance non contractual payments

Included in staff restructuring costs there are no non statutory/non contractual special severance payments

d Staff numbers

The average number of persons (including School Leadership Team) employed by the Academy during the period ended 31 August 2025 expressed as whole persons was as follows:

	05.07.24 to 31.08.25 No
Charitable Activities	
Teachers	56
Administration and support - including Teaching Assistants	146
Management	16
	<u><u>218</u></u>

e Higher paid staff

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

	No
£70,001 - £80,000	1
	<u><u>1</u></u>

f Key management personnel

The key management of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the Senior Leadership Team as listed on page 3. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £800,371.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025

(cont'd)

10 CENTRAL SERVICES

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

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

The academy trust charges for these services 4.5% of GAG and Early Years income.

	05.07.24 to 31.08.25
	£'000
The actual amounts charged during the period were as follows:	
Christ Church CofE Primary School	20
Bomere Heath CofE Primary School	17
St John the Baptist CofE Primary School and Nursery	17
Meole Brace Church of England Primary and Nursery	54
Bicton CofE Primary School and Nursery	19
Beckbury CofE Primary School	11
St Mary's Bluecoat CofE Primary School	25
Worfield Endowed CofE Primary School	19
	182

11 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS – TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

The Accounting Officer has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from employment with Shropshire Church of England Academies Trust. The Accounting Officer only receives remuneration in respect of services provided undertaking the roles of Accounting Officer under their contract of employment. The value of CEO remuneration and other remuneration was as follows:

	05.07.24 - 31.08.25
C Gaskin (Accounting Officer)	
Remuneration	£70,000 - £80,000
Employers pension contributions	£20,000 - £25,000

During the period ended 31 August 2025, there were no expenses reimbursed to the CEO undertaking their role as accounting officer.

During the period ended 31 August 2025, travel and subsistence expenses totalling £Nil were reimbursed or paid directly to trustees.

Other related party transactions including directors are set out in note 28.

12 TRUSTEES' AND OFFICERS' INSURANCE

In accordance with normal commercial practice the academy has purchased insurance to protect trustees' and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £5,000,000 on any one claim. It is not possible to quantify the Trustees' and Officers' indemnity from the overall cost of the insurance premium. The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025

(cont'd)

13 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Leasehold Land & Buildings	Computer Equipment £'000	Furniture & Equipment £'000	Total £'000
Cost				
At 1 February 2025	-	-	-	-
Additions	-	-	-	-
Transfer on conversion	754	17	162	933
At 31 August 2025	<u>754</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>162</u>	<u>933</u>
Depreciation				
At 1 February 2025	-	-	-	-
Charged in period	68	8	33	109
At 31 August 2025	<u>68</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>109</u>
Net book value				
At 31 August 2025	<u>686</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>129</u>	<u>824</u>
At 1 February 2025	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

On 1 February 2025, the playing fields belonging to Bicton CofE Primary School and Nursery, Christ Church CofE Primary School, Meole Brace Church of England Primary and Nursery, St John the Baptist CofE Primary School and Nursery and St Mary's Bluecoat CofE Primary School, previously owned by Shropshire County Council were transferred into Shropshire Church of England Academies Trust. At the date of transfer, no valuation was available for these playing fields and therefore they have not been recognised in the financial statements. The Trust is in the process of obtaining an appropriate valuation, which will be reflected in future financial statements once available.

14 DEBTORS

Trade debtors	15
VAT recoverable	110
Prepayments and accrued income	309
Other debtors	-
	<u>434</u>

15 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025
	£'000
Trade creditors	173
Other creditors	150
Taxation & social security	124
Accruals	90
Deferred income	118
	<u>655</u>
Deferred Income	
Deferred income at 1 September	-
Resources deferred in the period	118
Amounts recognised as income during the period	-
Deferred income at 31 August	<u>118</u>

At the balance sheet date the academy was holding funds received in advance for Universal Free School Meals £105,157, and Early Years funding £12,029.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025

(cont'd)

16 FUNDS

The income funds of the academy applied for specific purposes are as follows:

	Balance at 5 July 2024 £'000	Incoming Resources £'000	Resources Expended £'000	Gains, Losses & Transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2025 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General annual grant (GAG) (i)	-	3,743	(3,899)	254	98
Rates relief grant (ii)	-	33	(33)	-	-
Pupil premium grant (iii)	-	151	(151)	-	-
PE and Sports grant (ii)	-	57	(57)	-	-
UIFSM grant (ii)	-	69	(69)	-	-
Teachers pay grant (vi)	-	43	(43)	-	-
Teachers pension grant (vii)	-	54	(54)	-	-
National insurance contribution grant (vi)	-	55	(55)	-	-
Core schools budget (v)	-	90	(90)	-	-
Other DfE grants (x)	-	24	(24)	-	-
Conversion grant (iv)	-	245	(245)	-	-
LA special educational needs grant (x)	-	406	(406)	-	-
LA early years grant (xi)	-	355	(355)	-	-
LA other grants (xi)	-	19	(19)	-	-
Pupil catering (xii)	-	53	(53)	-	-
Other restricted (ix)	-	26	(26)	-	-
Total general funds	-	5,423	(5,579)	254	98
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE capital grants (note xiii)	-	171	-	-	171
Fixed assets on conversion - (note xiv)	-	933	(109)	-	824
Total fixed asset funds	-	1,104	(109)	-	995
Restricted pension scheme liability					
Pension reserve (note xv)	-	1,010	61	(1,071)	-
	-	1,010	61	(1,071)	-
Total restricted funds	-	7,537	(5,627)	(817)	1,093
Unrestricted funds					
Unrestricted funds (note xvi)	-	1,420	(95)	(254)	1,071
Total unrestricted funds	-	1,420	(95)	(254)	1,071
Total funds	-	8,957	(5,722)	(1,071)	2,164

(cont'd)

16 FUNDS (Cont'd)**Notes**

- i) GAG must be used for the normal running costs of the Multi Academy Trust. Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Multi Academy Trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it would carry forward at 31 August 2025 (see note 2).
- ii) Grants received from the DfE used to support free school meals, rates costs and PE costs.
- iii) Pupil premium grant has been used to support children from low income families placed in the Trust.
- iv) Conversion grants have been used to cover the initial start up costs of the Trust.
- v) Core school budget funds have been used to support overall running costs.
- vi) Teacher Pay grants have been used to cover the rising cost of teachers remuneration.
- vii) Teacher Pension grants have been used to cover the rising cost of teachers pension.
- viii) National insurance contribution grant has been used to fund the additional costs applied to all staff.
- ix) Other restricted funds have been used to cover other educational operating costs, including tutoring.
- x) Other DfE grants have been used to support the growth of the Trust.
- xi) LA early year grants have been used to expand childcare provision and improve existing facilities.
- xii) Pupil catering funds have been used to provide catering services to children within the Trust.
- xiii) Restricted fixed asset DfE grants are used to purchase capital additions.
- xiv) Fixed asset on conversion fund relates to the fixed assets transferred into the Trust on the conversion to academy from the local authority.
- xv) The pension reserve represents the balance on the LGPS (see note 27).
- xvi) Unrestricted funds have been used to fund the cost of raising funds and support educational expenditure needs.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025

(cont'd)

16 FUNDS (Cont'd)

TOTAL FUND ANALYSIS BY ACADEMY

Fund balances at 31 August 2025 were allocated as follows:

	2025 £'000
Christ Church CofE Primary School	170
Bomere Heath CofE Primary School	117
St John the Baptist CofE Primary School and Nursery	104
Meole Brace Church of England Primary and Nursery	421
Bicton CofE Primary School and Nursery	157
Beckbury CofE Primary School	44
St Mary's Bluecoat CofE Primary School	8
Worfield Endowed CofE Primary School	83
Shropshire Church of England Academies Trust	65
Total before fixed assets and pension reserve	1,169
Restricted fixed assets fund	995
Pension reserve	-
Total	2,164

TOTAL COST ANALYSIS BY ACADEMY

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

	Teaching and Educational Support Staff Costs £'000	Other Support Staff Costs £'000	Educationa l Supplies £'000	Other Costs (excluding Deprec'n) £'000	Total 05.07.24 to 31.08.25 £'000
Christ Church Primary	403	96	35	45	579
Bomere Heath Primary	309	83	45	81	518
St John Primary	338	3	39	59	439
Meole Brace Primary	1,126	212	78	143	1,559
Bicton Primary	320	61	44	110	535
Beckbury Primary	195	26	8	33	262
St Mary's Primary	716	(8)	17	99	824
Worfield Primary	342	40	16	57	455
Central	-	138	1	303	442
Total	3,749	651	283	930	5,613

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025
(cont'd)**17 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS**

Fund balances at 31 August 2025 are represented by:

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Pension Restricted Funds £'000	General Restricted Funds £'000	Fixed Assets Restricted Funds £'000	Total £'000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	824	824
Current assets	1,071	-	753	171	1,995
Current liabilities	-	-	(655)	-	(655)
Pension scheme liability	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>1,071</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>98</u>	<u>995</u>	<u>2,164</u>

18 CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

2025

£'000

Contracted for, but not provided in the financial statements

-**19 LONG TERM COMMITMENTS INCLUDING OPERATING LEASES*****Operating leases***

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

	2025 Other £'000
Amounts due within one year	18
Amounts due between one and five years	66
Amounts due after five years	4
	<u>88</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025
(cont'd)

20 RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	05.07.24 to 31.08.25 £'000
Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	3,235
Adjusted for:	
Depreciation (note 13)	109
LGPS pension surplus transfer (note 27)	(1,010)
Fixed assets transferred on conversion	(933)
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(47)
Interest receivable	(3)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable (note 27)	(22)
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost (note 27)	(39)
Increase in debtors	(434)
Increase in creditors	655
Net cash provided by operating activities	1,511

21 CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES

	05.07.24 to 31.08.25 £'000
Interest received	3
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	-
Capital grants from DfE	47
Net cash provided by investing activities	50

22 CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES

	05.07.24 to 31.08.25 £'000
Repayments of borrowing	-
Interest paid on loans	-
Cash inflows from new borrowing	-
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	-

23 ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	At 31 Aug 2025 £'000
Cash in hand and at bank	1,561
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,561

24 ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

	At 5 July 2024 £'000	Cash Flows £'000	At 31 Aug 2025 £'000
Cash at bank	-	1,561	1,561
Overdraft	-	-	-
	-	1,561	1,561
Loans within one year	-	-	-
Loans greater than one year	-	-	-
	-	1,561	1,561

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025

(cont'd)

25 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

During the period of the funding agreement between the Shropshire Church of England Academies Trust and the Secretary of State, in the event of the sale or disposal by other means of any asset for which a Government capital grant was received, the Shropshire Church of England Academies Trust is required either to reinvest the proceeds or to repay to the Secretary of State for Education the same proportion of the proceeds of the sale or disposal as equates with the proportion of the original cost met by the Secretary of State.

Upon termination of the funding agreement, whether as a result of the Secretary of State or the Shropshire Church of England Academies Trust serving notice, the Shropshire Church of England Academies Trust is obliged to repay to the Secretary of State sums determined by reference to:

- a) the value at that time of the Shropshire Church of England Academies Trust's sites and premises and other assets held for the purpose of the Shropshire Church of England Academies Trust; and
- b) the extent to which expenditure incurred in providing those assets was met by payments by the Secretary of State under the funding agreement.

26 MEMBER LIABILITY

Each member of the Shropshire Church of England Academies Trust undertakes to contribute to its assets in the event of it being wound up while he/she is a member, or within one year after he/she ceases to be a member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10 for the debts and liabilities contracted before he/she ceases to be a member.

27 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS

Shropshire Church of England Academies 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 Shropshire County Pension Fund. Both are defined multi employer benefit schemes.

As described in note 1 the LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the Shropshire Church of England Academies Trust, who were employees at the date of incorporation of the Academy Trust, and new employees who were eligible to, and did, join the scheme in the period. The obligation in respect of employees who transferred on conversion represents their cumulative service at both the predecessor school and the Trust's at the balance sheet date.

The total pension cost to the Academy during the period ended 31 August 2025 was £734,000 of which £562,000 relates to the TPS and £172,000 relates to LGPS.

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2020 and of the LGPS to the period ended 31 March 2022.

Contributions amounting to £149,585 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2025 and are included within other creditors.

(cont'd)

27 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (Cont'd)**Teachers' Pension Scheme****Introduction**

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

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2020. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 27 October 2023, with the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, applying a notional investment return based on 1.7% above the rate of CPI. The key elements of the valuation 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 on 1 April 2024. The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2027.

The employer's costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £562,000.

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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025

(cont'd)

27 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (Cont'd)**Local Government Pension Scheme**

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit scheme, with the assets held in a separate trustee administered funds. The total contributions made for the period ended 31 August 2025 was £307,000 of which employers contributions totalled £233,000 and employees contributions totalled £74,000.

The agreed contributions for future years is an average of 19.2% for employers and a minimum of 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 liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013 and on 21 July 2022, the Department for Education reaffirmed its commitment to the guarantee, with a parliamentary minute published on GOV.UK.

Principal Actuarial Assumptions

The major assumptions used by the actuary were:

	At 31 August 2025 % per annum
Discount rate	6.2%
Salary increases	3.8%
Pension increase	<u>2.7%</u>

Sensitivity analysis for the principal assumptions used to measure the scheme liabilities were as follows:

	At 31 August 2025 Approx Change to Employers Liability £'000
Discount rate reduced by 0.1% per annum	55
Salary increase rate increased by 0.1%	55
Mortality rate 1 year increase	<u>51</u>

The mortality assumptions used were as follows:

	At 31 August 2025 years
Longevity at age 65 retiring today	
- Men	21.5
- Women	24.1
Longevity at age 65 retiring in 20 years	
- Men	22.8
- Women	<u>25.6</u>

(cont'd)

27 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (Cont'd)

Shropshire Church of England Academies Trust's share of the assets in the scheme were:

	Fair value at 31 August
	2025
	£'000
Equity instruments	2,857
Debt instruments	654
Property	207
Cash and other liquid assets	34
Other assets	1,058
Total market value of assets	4,810
Present value of scheme liabilities:	
- Funded	4,810
- Unfunded	-
Total liabilities	4,810
Balance in the scheme	-

The actual return on the scheme assets in the period was a £106,000.

Amounts recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities:

	05.07.24 to
	31.08.25
	£'000
Current service cost	201
Interest income	(144)
Interest cost	105
Administration expenses	10
Total amount recognised in the SoFA	172

	05.07.24 to
	31.08.25
	£'000
Changes in deficit during the period:	
Balance at 5 July	-
Movement in period:	
- Transfer in from local authority	(1,010)
- Employer service cost (net of employee contributions)	201
- Employer contributions	(233)
- Expected return on scheme assets	(144)
- Interest cost	105
- Administration expenses	10
- Actuarial gains	(424)
- Asset ceiling	1,495
Deficit in the scheme at 31 August	-

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025

(cont'd)

27 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (Cont'd)

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

	05.07.24 to 31.08.25 £'000
Balance at 5 July	-
Scheme liabilities at admission date	3,327
Current service cost	201
Interest cost	105
Contributions by scheme participants	74
Benefits paid	71
Actuarial gains	(463)
Asset ceiling adjustment	1,495
Scheme liabilities at 31 August	<u>4,810</u>

Changes in the fair value of the share of scheme assets:

	05.07.24 to 31.08.25 £'000
Balance at 5 July	-
Scheme assets at admission date	4,337
Expected return on scheme assets	144
Actuarial losses	(39)
Contributions by employer	233
Benefits paid	71
Contributions by scheme participants	74
Administration expenses	(10)
Fair value of scheme assets at 31 August	<u>4,810</u>

The estimated value of employer contributions for the year ended 31 August 2026 is £404,000.

The fair value of the pension plan assets at 31 August 2025 is in excess of the present value of the defined benefit obligations at that date, giving rise to a net surplus of £1,495,000. This surplus is recognised in the financial statements only to the extent that the academy trust can recover this surplus, either through a reduction in future contributions or through a refund to the academy trust.

The academy trust is not able to determine that future contributions will be reduced and it is not possible for the academy trust to receive a refund from the scheme, as the specific conditions for this have not been met. Therefore an asset ceiling is in place such that the surplus of £1,495,000 is not recognised as an asset at 31 August 2025 and the net asset/liability recognised in the financial statements is capped at £Nil.

(cont'd)

28 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

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

During the period the academy trust employed the services of an external company, Tree-2-1 Services Ltd, that is a related party due to the Director of the company being the son of the Accounting Officer of the academy trust. The total amount for the period includes £3,237 paid to Tree-2-1 Services Ltd for landscaping services.

At 31 August 2025 there were outstanding balances with related parties of £288 owed to Tree-2-1 Services Ltd.

During the period the academy trust was provided income from the Worfield Education Foundation in the form of a donation. This is a related party due to the Accounting Officer of the academy trust being a trustee of the foundation. The total amount for the period includes £6,550 received from the Worfield Education Foundation.

At 31 August 2025 there were outstanding balances with related parties of £Nil owed from the Worfield Education Foundation.

During the period the academy trust engaged in transactions with the Diocese of Hereford, which is a member for the academy trust. The total amount for the period includes £40,000 donated from the Diocese of Hereford and £15,788 paid to the Diocese of Hereford for legal services.

At 31 August 2025 there were outstanding balances with related parties of £Nil owed to or from the Diocese of Hereford.

During the period the academy trust engaged in transactions with the Diocese of Lichfield, which is a member for the academy trust. The total amount for the period includes £40,000 donated from the Diocese of Lichfield and £31,486 paid to the Diocese of Lichfield for legal services.

At 31 August 2025 there were outstanding balances with related parties of £Nil owed to or from the Diocese of Lichfield.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025

(cont'd)

29 CONVERSION TO AN ACADEMY TRUST**Christ Church CofE Primary School**

On 1 February 2025, Christ Church CE Primary School converted to Academy status under the Academies Act 2010 and all the operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to Christ Church CE Primary School from Shropshire County Council for nil consideration.

No valuation has yet been obtained to confirm the value of the land and buildings transferred into the trust, but is expected to be provided during year ended 31 August 2025.

The transfer has been accounted for as a combination that is in substance a gift. The assets and liabilities transferred were valued at their fair value and recognised in the balance sheet under the appropriate headings with a corresponding net amount recognised as a net gain/(loss) in the Statement of Financial Activities as donations transferred from local authority on conversion.

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

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted General Funds £'000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £'000	Total Funds £'000
Leasehold land and buildings	-	-	14	14
Furniture and computer equipment	-	-	4	4
Budget surplus on LA funds - capital	-	-	4	4
Budget surplus on LA funds - revenue	162	-	-	162
LGPS pension surplus	-	180	-	180
Net assets	162	180	22	364

The above net assets include £166,000 that were transferred as cash.

Bomere Heath CofE Primary School

On 1 February 2025, Bomere Heath CE Primary School converted to Academy status under the Academies Act 2010 and all the operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to Bomere Heath CE Primary School from Shropshire County Council for nil consideration.

No valuation has yet been obtained to confirm the value of the land and buildings transferred into the trust, but is expected to be provided during year ended 31 August 2025.

The transfer has been accounted for as a combination that is in substance a gift. The assets and liabilities transferred were valued at their fair value and recognised in the balance sheet under the appropriate headings with a corresponding net amount recognised as a net gain/(loss) in the Statement of Financial Activities as donations transferred from local authority on conversion.

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

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted General Funds £'000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £'000	Total Funds £'000
Leasehold land and buildings	-	-	-	-
Furniture and computer equipment	-	-	14	14
Budget surplus on LA funds - capital	-	-	12	12
Budget surplus on LA funds - revenue	96	-	-	96
LGPS pension surplus	-	60	-	60
Net assets	96	60	26	182

The above net assets include £108,000 that were transferred as cash.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025
(cont'd)

29 CONVERSION TO AN ACADEMY TRUST (Cont'd)

St John the Baptist CofE Primary School and Nursery

On 1 February 2025, St John the Baptist CE Primary School converted to Academy status under the Academies Act 2010 and all the operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to St John the Baptist CE Primary School from Shropshire County Council for nil consideration.

No valuation has yet been obtained to confirm the value of the land and buildings transferred into the trust, but is expected to be provided during year ended 31 August 2025.

The transfer has been accounted for as a combination that is in substance a gift. The assets and liabilities transferred were valued at their fair value and recognised in the balance sheet under the appropriate headings with a corresponding net amount recognised as a net gain/(loss) in the Statement of Financial Activities as donations transferred from local authority on conversion.

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

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted General Funds £'000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £'000	Total Funds £'000
Leasehold land and buildings	-	-	-	-
Furniture and computer equipment	-	-	27	27
School Fund	-	-	-	-
Budget surplus on LA funds - capital	-	-	22	22
Budget surplus on LA funds - revenue	25	-	-	25
LGPS pension surplus	-	44	-	44
Net assets	25	44	49	118

The above net assets include £47,000 that were transferred as cash.

Meole Brace Church of England Primary and Nursery

On 1 February 2025, Meole Brace CE Primary School converted to Academy status under the Academies Act 2010 and all the operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to Meole Brace CE Primary School from Shropshire County Council for nil consideration.

No valuation has yet been obtained to confirm the value of the land and buildings transferred into the trust, but is expected to be provided during year ended 31 August 2025.

The transfer has been accounted for as a combination that is in substance a gift. The assets and liabilities transferred were valued at their fair value and recognised in the balance sheet under the appropriate headings with a corresponding net amount recognised as a net gain/(loss) in the Statement of Financial Activities as donations transferred from local authority on conversion.

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

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted General Funds £'000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £'000	Total Funds £'000
Leasehold land and buildings	-	-	272	272
Furniture and computer equipment	-	-	82	82
Budget surplus on LA funds - capital	-	-	18	18
Budget surplus on LA funds - revenue	355	-	-	355
LGPS pension surplus	-	388	-	388
Net assets	355	388	372	1,115

The above net assets include £373,000 that were transferred as cash.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025
(cont'd)

29 CONVERSION TO AN ACADEMY TRUST (Cont'd)

Bicton CofE Primary School and Nursery

On 1 February 2025, Bicton CE Primary School converted to Academy status under the Academies Act 2010 and all the operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to Bitcon CE Primary School from Shropshire County Council for nil consideration.

No valuation has yet been obtained to confirm the value of the land and buildings transferred into the trust, but is expected to be provided during year ended 31 August 2025.

The transfer has been accounted for as a combination that is in substance a gift. The assets and liabilities transferred were valued at their fair value and recognised in the balance sheet under the appropriate headings with a corresponding net amount recognised as a net gain/(loss) in the Statement of Financial Activities as donations transferred from local authority on conversion.

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

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted General Funds £'000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £'000	Total Funds £'000
Leasehold land and buildings	-	-	39	39
Furniture and computer equipment	-	-	-	-
Budget surplus on LA funds - capital	-	-	30	30
Budget surplus on LA funds - revenue	118	-	-	118
LGPS pension surplus	-	77	-	77
Net assets	118	77	69	264

The above net assets include £148,000 that were transferred as cash.

Beckbury CofE Primary School

On 1 February 2025, Beckbury CE Primary School converted to Academy status under the Academies Act 2010 and all the operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to Beckbury CE Primary School from Shropshire County Council for nil consideration.

No valuation has yet been obtained to confirm the value of the land and buildings transferred into the trust, but is expected to be provided during year ended 31 August 2025.

The transfer has been accounted for as a combination that is in substance a gift. The assets and liabilities transferred were valued at their fair value and recognised in the balance sheet under the appropriate headings with a corresponding net amount recognised as a net gain/(loss) in the Statement of Financial Activities as donations transferred from local authority on conversion.

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

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted General Funds £'000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £'000	Total £'000
Leasehold land and buildings	-	-	-	-
Furniture and computer equipment	-	-	6	6
School Fund	-	-	-	-
Budget surplus on LA funds - capital	-	-	38	38
Budget surplus on LA funds - revenue	18	-	-	18
LGPS pension surplus	-	43	-	43
Net assets	18	43	44	105

The above net assets include £56,000 that were transferred as cash.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 JULY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025
(cont'd)

29 CONVERSION TO AN ACADEMY TRUST (Cont'd)

St Mary's Bluecoat CofE Primary School

On 1 February 2025, St Mary's Bluecoat CE Primary School converted to Academy status under the Academies Act 2010 and all the operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to St Mary's Bluecoat CE Primary School from Shropshire County Council for nil consideration.

No valuation has yet been obtained to confirm the value of the land and buildings transferred into the trust, but is expected to be provided during year ended 31 August 2025.

The transfer has been accounted for as a combination that is in substance a gift. The assets and liabilities transferred were valued at their fair value and recognised in the balance sheet under the appropriate headings with a corresponding net amount recognised as a net gain/(loss) in the Statement of Financial Activities as donations transferred from local authority on conversion.

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

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted General Funds £'000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £'000	Total Funds £'000
Leasehold land and buildings	-	-	275	275
Furniture and computer equipment	-	-	15	15
School Fund	-	-	-	-
Budget surplus on LA funds	30	-	-	30
LGPS pension surplus	-	126	-	126
Net assets	30	126	290	446

The above net assets include £30,000 that were transferred as cash.

Worfield Endowed CofE Primary School

On 1 February 2025, Worfield Endowed CE Primary School converted to Academy status under the Academies Act 2010 and all the operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to Worfield Endowed CE Primary School from Shropshire County Council for nil consideration.

No valuation has yet been obtained to confirm the value of the land and buildings transferred into the trust, but is expected to be provided during year ended 31 August 2025.

The transfer has been accounted for as a combination that is in substance a gift. The assets and liabilities transferred were valued at their fair value and recognised in the balance sheet under the appropriate headings with a corresponding net amount recognised as a net gain/(loss) in the Statement of Financial Activities as donations transferred from local authority on conversion.

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

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted General Funds £'000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £'000	Total Funds £'000
Leasehold land and buildings	-	-	154	154
Furniture and computer equipment	-	-	31	31
School Fund	-	-	-	-
Budget surplus on LA funds	-	-	-	-
LGPS pension surplus	-	92	-	92
Net assets	-	92	185	277

The above net assets include £Nil that were transferred as cash.

30 EVENTS AFTER THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD

There are no material adjusting or non adjusting events arising after the balance sheet date.