

Academy @ Worden
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2025

Academy @ Worden

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2025

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Academy @ Worden

Reference and Administrative Details

Year Ended 31st August 2025

Members	Mrs M T Woodall Mrs L Fullbrook Mr D Hewitt Mrs C Harrison Mr C Catherall
Governors	Mrs M T Woodall (Chair & Community Governor) Mr A Hammersley (Headteacher and Acc Officer) Mr C J Ferguson (Community Governor) Mr D J Hewitt (Community Governor) Mrs A C Howden (Community Governor) Mr S Bennet (Co-Opted Governor) Ms D Carr (Co-Opted Governor) Mr P Smillie (Staff Governor – resigned 30/4/25) Mr J Bale (Staff Governor) Mrs S Gardner (Community Governor) Ms K Law (Staff Governor) Mrs S Barrett (Co-Opted Governor – resigned 16/9/24) Mrs D Watkinson (Co-Opted Governor) Mrs J Bishop (Trust Governor – appointed 30/1/25)
Secretary	Mr M Reed
Senior Leadership Team	
Headteacher	Mr A Hammersley (Headteacher and Acc Officer)
Deputy Head teacher	Mr P Cairns
Senior Assistant Headteacher	Mrs L Wood
Senior Assistant Headteacher	Mr S Porter
Director of Business and Finance	Mr M Reed
Assistant Headteacher	Mr J Haworth
Assistant Headteacher	Mrs J Cairns
Assistant Headteacher	Mrs V Dovey
Principal and Registered Office	Academy@Worden Redwood Drive Leyland PR25 1RP
Company Registration Number	08360915 (England and Wales)

Academy @ Worden

Reference and Administrative Details

Year Ended 31st August 2025

Independent Auditor

CWR
20 Mannin Way
Lancaster Business Park
Caton Road
Lancaster
LA1 3SW

Solicitors

Lancashire County Council
County Hall
Preston
PR1 8XJ

Governor Clerking

Blackpool Borough Council

Academy @ Worden

Governors Report

Year Ended 31st August 2025

The Governors present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the period from the 1st September 2024 to the 31st August 2025. The annual report serves the purposes of both a governors report, and a directors' report including a strategic report under company law.

The trust operates an academy for pupils aged 11-16 serving a catchment area in Leyland. It has a pupil capacity of 900 and had a roll of 625 as at 7th October 2024. The principal object and activity of the charitable company is the operation of a school to provide education for pupils of mixed abilities between the ages of 11 and 16. In accordance with the articles of association the charitable company has adopted a "Scheme of Government" approved by the Secretary of State for Education. The Scheme of Government specifies, amongst other things, the basis for admitting students to the Academy, the catchment area from which the students are drawn, and that the curriculum should comply with the substance of the national curriculum

Structure, Governance and Management

1.1 Constitution

Worden High School converted to Academy @ Worden ("The Academy") on 1 February 2013. The Academy is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The Charitable Company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the Academy.

The Academy was incorporated on 15 January 2013 and commenced its activities on transfer from the Local Authority on the conversion date stated above.

Two of the governors act as members for the charitable activities of the Academy. There are three additional members who are not governors. The Governors of Academy @ Worden and are also the directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law. The Charitable Company is known as Academy @ Worden.

Details of the Governors who served during the year are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 2.

1.2 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.

1.3 Governors' Indemnities

The Academy has purchased indemnity insurance to protect governors and officers from claims arising in connection with Academy business. The insurance, via the Risk Protection Arrangement, provides unlimited cover for any claim.

1.4 Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Governors

The Governors are appointed by the following:

Parent governors Elected by parents of the students of the Academy
Staff governors Elected by staff of the Academy
Community governors Appointed by Governing Body
Co-opted governors Appointed by Governing Body
Trust governors Appointed by the Trust

Academy @ Worden

Governors Report

Year Ended 31st August 2025

1.5 Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Governors.

On appointment all governors are provided with induction training organised and monitored by the Director of Business and Finance. Ongoing training is provided through Lancashire County Council Governor Services. The Governing Body also adopt an internal mentoring programme for new governors.

1.6 Organisational Structure

The Academy is governed by its Governing Body, whose members are directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006 and governors for the purposes of charity legislation. The organisational structure of the Academy consists of four levels: the Members, the Governing Body, the Headteacher, the Senior Leadership Team and the Operational Leadership Team.

The Governing Body is responsible for setting general policies, adopting a school improvement plan and budget, monitoring the academy's performance, making major policy decisions and appointing senior staff. Certain elements of these responsibilities are delegated to the following sub committees who make recommendations to the full Governing Body:

Business and Resources
Pupil, Curriculum and Learning
Audit & Risk Management

The Headteacher, who is also the Accounting Officer, and Senior Leadership Team are responsible for the day to day operation of the school, mainly organising teaching and support staff, facilities and students.

The Senior Leadership Team comprises:

The Headteacher
Deputy Headteacher
Senior Assistant Headteacher
Senior Assistant Headteacher
Director of Business and Finance
Assistant Headteacher
Assistant Headteacher
Assistant Headteacher

1.7 Arrangements for Setting Pay and Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

The individual salary ranges (ISR) of key management personnel are set by the governing body and are related to the size of school in terms of pupil numbers. The governors have agreed ISR grade ranges for each of the key management personnel job roles and these are reviewed annually to ensure they are appropriate.

To progress through these ranges, the Assistant Heads and Deputy Head must pass their annual appraisal and be recommended by the Head for a pay increment. This pay recommendation along with associated evidence is taken to the governor Pay Committee for them to review. This committee has the power to approve or decline the recommendation. The Head will also be appraised annual by a number of governors and their recommendation will also go to the Pay Committee for consideration. The Director of Business & Finance is also appraised annually, with their linked to NJC terms, and is performance incremented.

1.8 Related Parties and Other Connected Charities and Organisations

Academy @ Worden is part of the Chorley and South Ribble Heads Group, which meets termly and works together to share information and good practice. Its purpose is to disseminate and discuss important information and to collaborate on activities aimed at improving provision for young people at Worden and in the area.

Academy @ Worden

Governors Report

Year Ended 31st August 2025

1.8 Related Parties and Other Connected Charities and Organisations (continued)

The group involves colleges and other training providers which endeavour to develop projects and programmes which benefit young people who attend many of the participating schools. Another key element of this work is to provide additional services from agencies such as Young Persons Service to ensure appropriate support is put into place as swiftly as possible.

Worden joined the Preston Teaching School Alliance in August 2015 and is also a partner in the Red Rose Teaching School Alliance. It also attends termly meetings of the Lancashire Academies Group. Again, the work of these networks is to improve provision in the participating schools. In 2019 the academy also joined the Endeavour Trust Teaching School Alliance to provide further opportunities for staff development.

Worden also supports a number of colleges and universities, including Edgehill University, with teacher training placements across a number of specialities.

1.9 Trade Union Facility Time

Information, as it applies to the Academy Trust, is included below to satisfy requirements of the Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2017 for the period from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025 (the relevant period).

Relevant union officials:

<i>Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period</i>	<i>Full- time equivalent employee number</i>
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0	63
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Percentage of time spent on facility time:

<i>Percentage of time</i>	<i>Number of employees</i>
0%	63
1-50%	0
51-99%	0
100%	0

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time:

Total cost of facility time	N/A
Total pay bill	N/A
Percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time	N/A

Paid trade union activities:

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time	N/A
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Academy @ Worden

Governors Report

Year Ended 31st August 2025

Objectives and Activities

2.1 Objects and Aims

The Academy Trust's object is specifically restricted to the following: to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing a school offering a broad and balanced curriculum.

The principal aim of the Academy is to provide an outstanding learning environment that helps all students to fulfil their potential.

Academy @ Worden is a happy, purposeful and thriving school that provides excellent opportunities for all students to succeed. Learning is the central focus of all that is done at Worden and it is committed to developing the whole child, providing opportunities essential for personal, intellectual, emotional and social growth.

All students are supported by a strong pastoral system, which ensures they receive the individual care and attention they need. An extensive system of rewards encourages the pursuit of excellence and values, and celebrates achievements in all areas of school life. High expectations of attendance, punctuality, uniform and behaviour underpins success in school and lays the foundations for success in the wider community and life beyond school.

All members of the school community are encouraged to work and cooperate in an atmosphere of mutual respect which is integral to the school ethos.

2.2 Objectives, Strategies and Activities

The main objectives for the period were:

- To maximise student attainment and progress through the provision of teaching which is consistently good and outstanding
- To maximise student attainment and progress in any underperforming areas of the curriculum
- To maintain the growth in pupil numbers through effective marketing
- To further improve the quality of leadership at all levels

The vision of Worden is to be an outstanding school with outstanding outcomes for all. The Academy Trust's Improvement Plan for the period under review was produced to achieve this vision and to address the challenges and opportunities arising from national changes in education policy and academy status.

Key activities and targets have included the following:

1) Ensure that assessment and the quality of teaching and learning is outstanding Teaching in all key stages and all subjects must be outstanding and never less than consistently good. As a result, any uneven achievement across different subjects will be removed and ensure all students are fully challenged in all lessons. Lessons will embed numeracy and literacy skills across the school.

2) Ensure outstanding achievement and progress for all students

Provision will ensure high achievement and progress for all students regardless of ability and starting points. This will remove any attainment or progress gaps between different pupil groups including those qualifying for the Pupil Premium and those with SEND.

3) Develop outstanding leaders and teams at all levels leaders at all levels across the academy to fully understand their role in driving up standards. They evaluate provision accurately and have clear plans to deliver sustained improvement.

4) Secure outstanding behaviour (including behaviour for learning) and safety provision ensures outstanding personal development, behaviour and welfare in a safe, stimulating and inclusive environment. Pupils say they feel safe in school and display excellent attitudes towards learning. Punctuality and attendance is better than national figures. Appropriate policies and procedures are in place for safeguarding all members of the school community.

Academy @ Worden

Governors Report

Year Ended 31st August 2025

2.2 Objectives, Strategies and Activities (continued)

5) Communication and information systems are rationalised to ensure outstanding provision in all areas
Communication between school and home is highly efficient and effective. Parents and carers are up to date with school activities and their child's progress. Internal communication and that with other stakeholders is also highly effective.

6) Establish outstanding academy, business and financial planning and evaluation to ensure a sustainable and flourishing future which involves and engages all stakeholders and promotes further collaboration

The three-year academy and financial plans and accurate self-evaluation are in place and regularly updated and acted upon. Meetings and collaboration with other schools, colleges, universities, businesses, wider community and other stakeholders promote cohesion and help raise pupil aspirations, expectations and attainment. Generate increased income through community use.

2.3 Public Benefit

The Governors are aware of the Charity Commission Guidance on providing public benefit and have had due regard to this in exercising their duties during the period. This advice has been referred to when reviewing the aims of Worden and planning future activities that are for the benefit of the public.

The Academy trust provides education to children and young people that:

- is broad and balanced,
- promotes spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of students at the school and of society,
- prepares students for opportunities and experiences of later life,
- promotes, sustains and increases individual and collective knowledge and understanding of specific areas of study, skills and expertise.

The school is open to the public five evenings per week offering the use of its halls, classrooms, and many sporting facilities including its outdoor pitches.

Worden regularly hosts sporting festivals for partner primary schools and houses a defibrillator for use by the community in case of emergency.

Strategic report

3. Achievements and Performance

The latest Ofsted inspection, from an inspection on the 21st and 22nd of January 2025, confirmed that Worden "continues to be good school". All stakeholders were extremely proud of the Ofsted report, which is extremely positive and reflects the outstanding work that goes on daily at Worden to ensure our pupils make the best possible progress in subjects across our broad and balanced curriculum.

The report recognises our high expectations and ambition for all our youngsters. Some key phrases in the inspection finding are:

"Pupils are proud to attend Academy@Worden. They appreciate the range of wider, cultural opportunities that are on offer to them. Pupils treat each other with kindness. They show respect for diversity. Pupils told inspectors that the school will listen to their concerns. This helps to ensure that pupils feel safe and happy in school."

"The school has designed a broad and ambitious curriculum. It has thought carefully about the knowledge that pupils should learn. The curriculum is ordered sensibly to ensure that pupils have the prior knowledge to learn successfully."

Academy @ Worden

Governors Report

Year Ended 31st August 2025

3. Achievements and Performance (continued)

"Pupils respond well to the high expectations that the school has for their behaviour. This means that learning is uninterrupted. Pupils benefit from a thoughtfully designed personal, social, health and economic education curriculum. They learn about healthy relationships in an age-appropriate way. They know how to keep themselves safe. Pupils are prepared well for the next stage of their education, employment or training. The school offers a range of extra-curricular activities. However, at times, leaders do not ensure that they support disadvantaged pupils to take full advantage of this rich offer."

3.1 Key Performance Indicators

The GCSE (and equivalents) results for 2025 are included in the table below. Previous years outcomes are also provided for comparison.

Indicators	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
% A*-C in English and Maths	60	60	67	68	68	70	68	54	55	
P8 (Pupil Progress)	0.06	-0.35	0.06	0.25	0.12	0.04	-0.18	-0.39	-0.22	

The GCSE (and equivalents) results for 2024 are included in the table below. Previous years outcomes are also provided for comparison.

Indicators	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
% A*-C in Eng & Maths	60	60	67	68	68	70	68	54	55	60
P8 (Pupil Progress)	0.06	-0.35	0.06	0.25	0.12	0.04	-0.18	-0.39	-0.22	NA

Pupil outcomes again improved in 2016 with a 6% increase in the proportion of pupils achieving A*-C grades in both English and Maths. English performed extremely well with 85% gaining A*-C and 85% making expected progress, which is around 25% higher than the national figure. In line with national performance, 63% of pupils made the expected progress in Maths.

In 2017, pupil outcomes improved with a 10% increase in pupils achieving 5 GCSEs A* - C including English and Maths. Very pleasing were the Science results of 69% A* - C and PE at 85% A* - C, demonstrating the investment in teaching and learning in all subject areas.

2018 saw a 7% increase in pupils achieving 5 GCSEs A* - C including English and Maths. English A* to C equivalent increased by 22% to 87% and Maths by 8% to 68%. Other notable pass rates included, Science 92%, French 93%, PE 95%, Psychology 92% and Statistics 100%. This has driven the academy's Progress 8 score from a -0.35 to a positive 0.06, demonstrating the impact of investment in teaching and learning over the period.

2019 delivered a great set of results with a ninefold improvement in the number of top grades achieved by pupils at the academy. Results are above the national average for last year with a pass rate in English of 86%. Maths improved their pass rate, yet again, taking it to 70%. Spanish results saw 100% of pupils passing and drama were also very pleased with 93% passing this year. PE received a pass rate of 80% with science recording 73% and statistics 77%. The proportion of pupils achieving a pass in both English and Maths, the 'Basics' measure, is up on 2018; an impressive 69% it is well above last year's national average. These results have been reflected in the overall P8 score of 0.24, which is the highest of all the secondary schools in Leyland.

In 2020, the pupils achieved a positive P8 score of +0.12, significantly above the national average. Again, pupils achieved extremely well in all subjects with the following notable achievements: 86% pass rate in English, 69% pass rate in Maths, 100% pass rate in Biology, Physics, Psychology and Spanish. 92% pass rate in Chemistry, 85% pass rate in Art, 82% pass rate in PE and I-Media, 81% pass rate in Computer Science, 79% pass rate in RE, 77% pass rate in History, 71% pass rate in Sociology and 70% pass rate in Dual Award Science. The number of grade 9s achieved was a five fold increase on 2019s figure. The Progress 8 score ensures that Worden continues to be one of the top performing high schools in Leyland.

Academy @ Worden

Governors Report

Year Ended 31st August 2025

Key performance indicators (continued)

2021 was another successful year for the academy and the Progress 8 score of '0.04 positive' meant that Worden continues to be the best school in Leyland for pupil progress. English scored highly again with a pass rate of 80%, whilst Maths increased by 5% to 74%, both subjects ahead of the national GCSE average. The academy also achieved 100% in GCSE for French, Psychology, Biology and Physics. Other notable successes were in Statistics 93%, Computing 83%, Drama 83%, PE 83% and Geography 83%.

2022 was yet again another successful year for the academy with the Basics 5+ increasing by 10%. This means that more pupils than ever achieved a 'strong pass' as opposed to a 'standard pass' in English and Maths. English scored highly again with a pass rate of 84%, whilst Maths achieved 68%, both subjects ahead of the national GCSE average. The academy also achieved 93% in GCSE Physics, 89% in French, Biology, Chemistry, Food Nutrition and Art & Design. Other notable successes were in Psychology 84%, Computing 83%, PE 79% and History 75%.

2023 proved to be a challenging year with almost half the cohort classed as disadvantaged or SEN, which impacted on our results overall. Notable successes were seen in the sciences with Biology 90%, Chemistry 80%, Physics 80%, Computer Science 80%, along with History 80% and MFL 83%.

In 2024 we saw an improvement with our P8 score increasing to -0.22 and it was pleasing to see that our higher achiever group getting 95% in English & Maths 5+. Notable subject success includes, Drama 100%, Computing 82%, PE 81%, MFL 70% and Art 69%.

2025 proved to be a great year for results with increases across the board. The 4+ and 5+ in English and Maths both increased by over 5%, whilst Ebacc results almost doubled.

Headteacher's Report

Prior to the start of the new academic year, funding was secured to continue our very successful Summer School, run by Mrs Gardner, which was very well received with around 122 pupils attending. Feedback from pupil and parents was very positive, with the week-long school covering both educational and fun activities for the new pupils. We were again oversubscribed for school places and 158 Year 7 pupils started in September 2024, taking our roll to 619 pupils.

The academy welcomed the following new staff in September 2024:

Mr Gilmour - Aspiring Leader of Maths

Mrs Dixon – Teacher of Maths

Mr Day - Head of Science

Mrs Sumbner – Teacher of MFL

Mrs Mangera-Badat – Head of RE/PSHE

Mrs Mulvana-Kinlin – Teacher of RE/PSHE

Mr Huntbatch – Teacher of Computing

SLT roles for the year were agreed as follows:

Mr Cairns – Curriculum and timetabling & DSL

Mr Haworth – Disadvantaged pupils, Catch-up & Intervention, Behaviour

Mr Porter – Teaching & Learning, Personal Development and SEN

Mrs Wood – Progress & attendance and SEN

Mrs Cairns – School Council and Stakeholder Voice

The headline P8 figure for the 2024 GCSE results was -0.22, an improvement on the prior year but still affected primarily by the attendance of some pupils, post covid. Good successes were seen across the majority of subjects.

School attendance was at 94%, well ahead of the national average and the academy has been focusing on driving down persistent non-attendance with the creation of a new family support worker role.

Academy @ Worden

Governors Report

Year Ended 31st August 2025

Headteacher's Report (continued)

The focus for staff again this year was the weekly CPD sessions, covering SEND, and assessment across reading and the curriculum, The School Improvement Plan has been revised for 2024 -26 and a new school vision and ethos agreed by staff and governors.

Open evening this year was delivered in late September and was very successful with the largest attendance we have ever seen. The event was followed by two 'Open Weeks' where parents and pupils could visit the school for tour on pre-booked appointment times.

Key areas of the school improvement plan for the year included:

- 1 SEND – Improve the curriculum experience and outcomes for SEND pupils.
2. Reading – further develop pupils love of reading across the curriculum.
3. Homework – review and develop the homework provision across school.
4. Disadvantaged pupils – Improve the curriculum experience and outcomes for disadvantaged pupils.
5. Improve attendance – reduce PA/SPA, especially in SEND/PP groups
6. Parental engagement – Improve the parental experience with increased engagement with school

September saw the completion of the renovation works and opening of the new Westfield building, which the academy has taken on a lease from Lancashire County Council to enable an increase in pupil numbers in the area.

Worden held its ninth AGM on 30th January 2025 which was attended by the Head, Mr Reed and members of the Academy Trust: The reports were accepted and no motions were submitted.

In May 2025, we were pleased to receive news that our two capital CIF applications had been approved by the Department of Education with funding of circa £1m for a new roof on the Westfield building and refurbishment of the electrics across the site. In August 2025, the roof was replaced on the Westfield building and we also built a new set of 16 pupil toilets in that building.

We added a new member to SLT in April 2025, with Mrs Dovey joining us as Assistant Headteacher - Educational Needs and vulnerable pupils.

We continue to work closely with School Synergy to further strengthen contact with home. More parents are logging in to view the wealth of information available to them as well as using the messaging system to contact staff including myself.

Listening to parents and pupils is very important to us and has been a real focus throughout the year. Our student council meet weekly and form representatives are putting forward suggestions that they and their peers think could improve the school.

We continue to distribute questionnaires during parent's evenings which are scrutinised and followed up if necessary when serious concerns or issues that merit further discussion are raised. We continue to hold our coffee drop in session for parents, which provides us with some excellent feedback and suggestions for improvement from parents who clearly cared about their child(ren) and the work that is going on at the academy.

School continues to nurture pupils and provide a range of rewards, support and intervention strategies to help make them feel valued, inspire them to improve and to help them achieve. Some of these initiatives included:

- Nurture room open at breaks and lunch times for vulnerable pupils
- Intervention programme for underperforming pupils
- Non uniform days to raise money for rewards and charities
- College taster days and college assemblies
- Presentation assemblies rewarding progress, achievement and good attendance
- Young People's Services – a variety of visits and events aimed at students

Academy @ Worden

Governors Report

Year Ended 31st August 2025

Headteacher's Report (continued)

- The school nurse visiting school on a weekly
- Year 6 transition meetings and year 5 visits for prospective pupils
- New intake evenings and taster days
- Termly reward trips
- Lancashire Mind (Young People Mental Health)
- College visits for able, gifted and talented pupils
- Parents' evenings
- Transition meetings for new intake

Intervention and support included:

- Behaviour tracking system initiated
- One to one mentoring for pupils on a weekly basis
- Breakfast club
- Parental meetings
- Personal support plans
- School nurse support
- Strong programme of careers guidance
- Targeted support in lessons
- Governors intervention
- Looked After Children reviews
- Key Early Intervention Agency
- Access to the school counsellor
- Collaboration with Social Services, family support workers, Head of LAC support, the police, YOT/GRIP etc.
- Child protection conference meetings

Our links with the Preston Teaching Schools Alliance continues to strengthen as does our involvement in the Red Rose Teaching Schools Alliance. We have also been working with the Endeavour Trust Teaching School Alliance for CPD, networking and collaboration.

3.4 Worden's Leadership Academy

Worden's Leadership Academy continues to grow from strength to strength and in doing so has played a very prominent role in leading and officiating at many of the primary competitions, festivals and other organised PE events. It is only through the use of these leaders that we are able to organise and host the National School Games Programme.

Once again, this year Worden has remained an enthusiastic, supportive and welcoming partner, host and base hub to the South Ribble SGO Programme as they continue to evolve and develop new initiatives for active schools in 2024-2025.

3.5 Academy Environment

The academy has worked hard across the year to develop physical areas of the school, adding two new science labs and a science prep room, as well as two new computer rooms. In addition, we took on the Westfield Centre from Lancashire County Council on a 114 year lease to enable the expansion of the school.

3.6 Going Concern

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

Academy @ Worden

Governors Report

Year Ended 31st August 2025

4. Financial Review

4.1 Operating and Financial Review

The Academy's total incoming resources during the period were £6,058,000 (2024: £5,674,000). The majority of the Academy's income derives from central government funding via the Education Funding Agency, in the form of current grants. Total funding received for the Academy's educational operations in the period was £5,115,000 (2024: £4,212,000) and further details are provided in the accounts.

Total outgoing resources for the period were £5,106,000 (2024: £4,408,000), which related to the direct provision of educational operations.

At the period end the Academy's total reserves were £6,760,000 (2024: £5,852,000) including unrestricted funds of £68,000 (2024: £57,000) and restricted funds of £6,692,000 (2024: £5,795,000). Restricted funds include fixed assets of £6,113,000 (2024: £5,057,000), less the LGPS pensions scheme of £0 (2024: £0 surplus). The level of restricted funds excluding fixed assets and the pension was £579,000 (2024: £738,000).

At 31st August 2025 all assets shown in the accounts were used exclusively for providing education and associated support services to students of the Academy.

4.2 Reserves Policy

Restricted GAG reserves

The Governors have considered the level of GAG reserves which they believe will provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between the spending and receipt of grants and unexpected or planned future revenue and capital costs. The Governors believe that, under normal circumstances, the appropriate level of GAG reserve should be between 5% and 8% of GAG income, which equates to approximately £142,000 - £228,000 on an annual basis and aim to keep the reserve within these parameters. Over the last five years, the management have continued to diligently review all costs and contracts and provide further savings within each year, which has helped to contain expenditure. This has allowed a good level of reserves to be built as the academy numbers have matured.

At 31 August 2025 the academy held £579,000 in restricted GAG reserves (2024: £738,000).

Unrestricted reserves

In addition to the GAG reserve, which can only be utilised for the restricted purposes set out in the Funding Agreement, the academy holds unrestricted free reserves, which provide additional working capital and are not committed or designated. It is the Governors' policy to aim to hold up to £50,000, to provide an additional cushion over and above the restricted GAG reserve.

At 31 August 2025 the level of unrestricted reserves held was £68,000 (2024: £57,000).

Pension reserve

On conversion, the School inherited a deficit of £476,000 in respect of the Local Government Pension Scheme, which many of the non-teaching staff belong to. As at the 31st August 2025 the deficit sits at £nil (2024: deficit of £nil). The level of any deficit payments have been reviewed by Lancashire County Council and Mercers, and these ceased from April 2023 (2024: £0) as the scheme went into a surplus position. Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of academy closure, outstanding local government pension scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013.

Academy @ Worden

Governors Report

Year Ended 31st August 2025

4.3 Investment Policy

All investments are agreed by the Governing Body, which has regard to the Charity Commission guidance in relation to charity investment policy. The school does not currently hold any investments other than cash in its current account and on deposit, which is held for its normal operations. The Governing Body has adopted a low risk strategy to its cash holdings. All surplus cash is held in the main bank account to ensure that there is always access to sufficient cash to meet short and medium term requirements.

4.4 Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The principal risk the academy faces is loss of grant income due to a reduction in student numbers. The governors and academy have set up a Marketing Committee to help drive the marketing and publicity for the academy. A resulting factor is a key investment in this area, in terms of time, money and staff commitment.

4.5 Risk Management

The Governors have assessed the major risks to which the Academy is exposed, in particular those relating to governance, operations, finance, safeguarding and health and safety. These risks are reviewed on a termly basis by the governing body. Certain risks are managed by the Business and Resources Committee and others by the Curriculum committee. The main risk overview is managed by the Audit and Risk Committee through the Risk Register.

The internal financial systems are based on the Academies Financial Handbook and are documented in the Academy Finance Manual and Scheme of Delegation. The systems are based on a framework of segregation of duties which include authorisation and approval. Financial management information is provided to the Headteacher and all governors on a monthly basis and discussed at the relevant governor committee meetings each term. The Academy and Governors have also completed a full review of the Risk Register.

The responsible officer role has been performed during the period by Champion Accountants and it is pleasing to note there have been no significant findings over the accounting period.

4.6 Financial and Risk Management Objectives and Policies

The academy has completed a five-year projection of pupil numbers, income and expenditure. This has been discussed with Governors and scrutinised to ensure the academy balances the quality of its provision and value for money. The calculations allow for increasing staff numbers, aligning to the rising pupil numbers.

4.7 Fundraising

Under the provisions of the Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016 this section must include information on fundraising practices. The areas to cover are included in section 13 of the Act and include:

- Approach to fundraising
- Work with, and oversight of, any commercial participants/professional fundraisers
- Fundraising conforming to recognised standards
- Monitoring of fundraising carried out on its behalf
- Fundraising complaints
- Protection of the public, including vulnerable people, from unreasonably intrusive or persistent fundraising approaches, and undue pressure to donate.

Governors may also find it helpful to refer to the Charity Commission publication "Charity fundraising: a guide to governors' duties (CC20)" which has been updated to reflect new requirements.

Academy @ Worden

Governors Report

Year Ended 31st August 2025

5. Plans for Future Periods

After three 'GOOD' Ofsted judgements, the plan below outlines the strategies to be implemented in order to achieve the vision of being recognised as an outstanding school.

Academy @ Worden Vision

1. All pupils achieve and are recognised as unique individuals with specific talents and needs. Students only get one chance and we take very seriously our role of providing the best possible opportunities for them to gain the most from their time here.
2. Excellent teaching encourages intellectual, creative, technological and physical growth. We aim to develop our students' ability to think independently, solve problems, communicate effectively and live happy and fulfilling lives.
3. Students are motivated and recognise the joy of achievement in a safe and orderly environment. Worden is committed to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all pupils.
4. Parents are encouraged to take an active part in their child's education and in the life of the school in general.
5. The experiences of pupils provide opportunities to become tolerant and respectful, resilient and resourceful and encourage them to develop the skills required to face the challenges of the future.
6. Students experience a range of enrichment within and beyond the school day and in the community.

Priorities for 2025 onwards

The main focused areas of continuing improvement include:

1. SEND – Improve the curriculum experience and outcomes for SEND pupils.
2. Reading – further develop pupils love of reading across the curriculum.
3. Homework – review and develop the homework provision across school.
4. Disadvantaged pupils – Improve the curriculum experience and outcomes for disadvantaged pupils.
5. Improve attendance – reduce PA/SPA, especially in SEND/PP groups
6. Parental engagement – Improve the parental experience with increased engagement with school

Academy @ Worden

Governors Report

Year Ended 31st August 2025

6. Auditor

In so far as the governors are aware:

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

A resolution proposing that CWR Accountants be reappointed as auditor of the charitable company will be put to the members.

The governors' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Governors, as the company directors, on8.12.25.....and signed on the board's behalf by:



Mrs M T Woodall
Chair & Community Governor



.....
Mr A Hammersley
Headteacher & Accounting Officer

Academy @ Worden

Governance Statement

Year Ended 31st August 2025

7.1 Scope of Responsibility

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

As Governors, we have reviewed and taken account of the guidance in DfE's Governance Handbook and competency framework for governance.

The Governing Body has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Headteacher, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Academy @ Worden and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Governing Body any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

7.2 Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Governors' Report and in the Statement of Governors' Responsibilities. The Governing Body has formally met four times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Governing Body was as follows:

Governors	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Mrs M T Woodall (Chair & Community Governor)	4	4
Mr A Hammersley (Headteacher / Acc Officer)	4	4
Mr C J Ferguson (Community Governor)	3	4
Mr D J Hewitt (Community Governor)	2	4
Mrs A C Howden (Community Governor)	4	4
Mrs D Carr (Co-Opted Governor)	3	4
Mr P Smillie (Staff Governor – resigned 30/4/25)	2	2
Mr J Bale (Staff Governor)	0	4
Mrs S Gardner (Staff Governor)	4	4
Ms K Law (Staff Governor)	2	4
Mrs S Barrett (Co-opted Governor – resigned 16/9/24)	0	0
Mrs D Watkinson (Parent Governor)	1	4
Mr S Bennett (Co-Opted Governor – appointed 22/9/23)	1	4
Mrs J Bishop (Trust Governor – appointed 30/1/25)	2	2

Assessment of Board skills and challenges faced in the year

The Governing Body completed a number of self-evaluation and development activities in the year;

- The terms of reference of each committee are reviewed in the autumn term annually, which allows for an appraisal of each committee.
- The academy maintains a risk register, which the Governing Body developed with the academy, part of which covers the risks concerned with a Governing Body, which are reviewed termly.

Academy @ Worden

Governance Statement

Year Ended 31st August 2025

Assessment of Board skills and challenges faced in the year (continued)

- Continuance of the governor induction programme with mentors.
- Membership of the National Governors Association.
- Reviewed the current skills audit.
- Appointed one new governor
- Additional governor business meeting to setup the academic year and additional faculty / subject review meetings.
- Reviewed the NGA Governance Review from prior year focusing on recommendations governance vision and stakeholder engagement. Governors worked with the academy to agree a governance and school vision and worked with Asst Head Mrs Cairns on stakeholder engagement.

The Audit, Business and Resources Committee is a sub-committee of the main Governing Body. Its purpose is to look at effective use of resources in the academy; finance, HR, estates, audit, Health and Safety, and Business Development.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Governors	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Mrs M T Woodall (Chair & Community Governor)	3	3
Mr A Hammersley (Headteacher / Acc Officer)	3	3
Mr C J Ferguson (Community Governor)	3	3
Mr D J Hewitt (Community Governor)	3	3
Mrs S Gardner (Community Governor)	3	3
Mrs A C Howden (Community Governor)	3	3
Mr P Smillie (Staff Governor – Resigned 30/4/25)	1	1
Mrs D Watkinson (Community Governor)	2	3
Mrs D Carr (Co-Opted Governor)	1	3
Mr S Bennett (Co-Opted Governor)	3	3

7.3 Review of Value for Money

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

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

- Continued use of the RPA Insurance policy saved us £18,000 per annum
- Continued use of operational leasing tied to periods of warranties. This avoids excessive use of capital reserves and allows the academy to be cost effective in purchasing the most suitable equipment for the best price. warranty.

Academy @ Worden

Governance Statement

Year Ended 31st August 2025

7.3 Review of Value for Money (continued)

- Undertaking capital works and refurbishment in house has saved us £20000 this year, by self-managing the projects and builds and using inhouse labour (e.g. New Hub 3 and IT Officeo - saved £12000 against contractors costings).
- Savings by agreeing fixed recruitment cost with TES and supply agencies
- Use of casual cover supervisors and cover supervisors gives us a 50% saving against supply agency costs
- Fixing contract costs by increasing contract length or renewing early to lock in pricing (e.g. ESS Sims/FMS for 3 years).
- Purchasing refurbished IT equipment with guarantees and also extending life of IT equipment.
- Robust tendering process and contract renegotiations. (IT managed service).
- Joint tendering with other schools provides economies of scale in pricing.
- Increased revenue from investing reserves.
- Membership and use of DfE Buying Hub and commercial frameworks continues to save monies.
- Joint capital investments (4G pitch saving us £75000).
- Renegotiation of contracts; e.g. saved £1000 on franking contract by renegotiating mid contract.
- Managing lettings ourselves has led to an additional income of £8,000 per annum.
- Continued investment in LED lighting in a number of classrooms will yield costs savings on our electricity expenses.

7.4 The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

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

7.5 Capacity to Handle Risk

The Board of Governors has reviewed the key risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Governors is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the year ended 31st August 2025 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Governors.

7.6 The Risk and Control Framework

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

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

Academy @ Worden

Governance Statement

Year Ended 31st August 2025

7.6 The Risk and Control Framework (continued)

The Governing Body has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided not to appoint an internal auditor. However, the Governors have appointed Champion Accountants, as responsible officer (RO). The RO's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the academy trust's financial systems. On a quarterly basis, the RO will report to the Governing Body on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Governing Body's financial responsibilities.

The RO has completed a full year of reviews for 2024-25 and it is pleasing to note that there were no significant findings.

On a quarterly basis, the Champion Accountants report to the Governing Body through the Audit & Risk Management Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the financial responsibilities of the Governing Body. The reports are completed on a quarterly basis with management responses given to any findings disclosed. The findings throughout the year have been minor and categorised as low/medium risk.

7.7 Review of Effectiveness

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

Risk Register

The Governing Body prepared a risk register which was approved in July 2014. The register identified key risks which have been reviewed on a termly basis by the Governing Body. Many of the risks have been allocated to the Business and Resources and Teaching, Learning and Curriculum committees. The risks have then been allocated to risk holders who have reviewed them on a termly basis.

Financial Management and Governance

The Governors have received a monthly financial report, prepared in accordance with Financial Regulations Handbook and adhering to the Academies Financial Handbook 2024. In addition, RO reports have been completed quarterly as discussed below, as well as external audit of the financial accounts.

Responsible Officer (RO) Function

The Governors have appointed Champion Accountants to perform the RO function. They presented quarterly reports to the Business, Audit & Risk Management Committee on the systems of control within the academy. Recommendations arising from the reports have been implemented immediately after the reports are approved.

Internal Controls

During the year no actions have been recommended to improve internal controls.

Conclusion

Based on the advice of the relevant committee and the Accounting Officer, the Board of Governors 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 Governors on 8.11.24 and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs M T Woodall
Chair & Community Governor


.....

Mr A Hammersley
Headteacher & Accounting Officer

Academy @ Worden

Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance

Year Ended 31st August 2025

As Accounting Officer of Academy @ Worden I confirm that I have had due regard to the framework of authorities governing regularity, propriety and compliance, including the Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Department for Education (DfE), and the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook, including responsibilities for estates safety and management. I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Trust Board of Governors 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 Academy Trust Board of Governors are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the Academy Trust, or material non-compliance with the framework of authorities.

I confirm that no instances of material irregularity, impropriety or funding 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 Governors and DfE.



.....
Mr A Hammersley
Headteacher & Accounting Officer

Date: *8.12.25*

Academy @ Worden

Statement of Governors Responsibilities

Year Ended 31st August 2025

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

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The governors 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 governors are responsible for ensuring that in its conduct and operation the charitable company applies financial and other controls which conform to the requirements both of propriety and good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring that grants received from the Education and Skills Funding Agency and the Department for Education have been applied for the purposes intended.

The governors 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 Governors on *8.12.25* and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs M T Woodall
Chair & Community Governor

Academy @ Worden

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Academy @ Worden

Year Ended 31st August 2025

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Academy @ Worden (the 'Academy Trust') for the year ended 31st August 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland*, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by the Department for Education.

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

(Continued)

Academy @ Worden

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Academy @ Worden

Year Ended 31st August 2025

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the governors' report, which includes the strategic report and the directors' report prepared for the purposes of Company Law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report included within the governors' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the Academy Trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report or the directors' report included within the governors' report.

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

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

Responsibilities of governors

As explained more fully in the governors' responsibilities statement set out on page 22, the governors (who are also the directors of the Academy Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the governors 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 governors are responsible for assessing the Academy Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the governors either intend to liquidate the Academy Trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

(Continued)

Academy @ Worden

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Academy @ Worden

Year Ended 31st August 2025

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 the audit was capable of detecting irregularities including fraud

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

- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the academy from our knowledge and experience of the academy sector.
- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence and skills to identify non compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations through making enquiries of management and reviewing legal correspondences.
- we reviewed minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- we assessed the risk of management override of controls, including through journal testing and other adjustments for appropriateness.
- we reviewed the reports of the internal auditor appointed by the school in the accounting period.
- we reviewed the financial statement disclosures and tested to supporting documentation to assess compliance with laws and regulations.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more the compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

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

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

(Continued)

Academy @ Worden

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Academy @ Worden

Year Ended 31st August 2025

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Academy Trust's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Academy Trust's members those matters we are required to state to them in an 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 Academy Trust and the Academy Trust's Members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



.....
Mr Robert Mitchell FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of CWR
20 Mannin Way
Lancaster Business Park
Caton Road
Lancaster
LA1 3SW

Date:18/12/2025.....

Academy @ Worden

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Academy @ Worden and the Secretary of State for Education

Year Ended 31st August 2025

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 31st August 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 Academy @ Worden during the year from the 1st September 2024 to the 31st August 2025 have not been applied for 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 Academy @ Worden 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 Academy @ Worden 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 Academy @ Worden and the Secretary of State for Education for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Academy @ Worden's Accounting Officer and the reporting accountant

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of Academy @ Worden's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1st September 2024, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Approach

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw our conclusions includes:

- Obtaining evidence including those tests relevant to the circumstances of the Academy Trust as prescribed in Annex C of the Guide For External Auditors and Reporting Accountants section of the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by the DfE; and
- Planning and performing any additional tests we deemed necessary to express and opinion on regularity.

(Continued)

Academy @ Worden

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Academy @ Worden and the Secretary of State for Education

Year Ended 31st August 2025

Conclusion

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



Mr Robert Mitchell FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of CWR
20 Mannin Way
Lancaster Business Park
Caton Road
Lancaster
LA1 3SW

Date: 18/12/2025

Academy @ Worden

Statement of Financial Activities incorporating Income & Expenditure Account

Year Ended 31st August 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted General Funds £000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £000	Total 2025 £000	Total 2024 £000
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	2	-	81	918	999	1,404
Charitable activities:						
Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations	3	-	5,025	-	5,025	4,212
Other trading activities	4	23	-	-	23	46
Investments	5	11	-	-	11	12
Total		34	5,106	918	6,058	5,674
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities:						
Academy trust's educational operations	6/7	(23)	(4,870)	(222)	(5,115)	(4,408)
Total		(23)	(4,870)	(222)	(5,115)	(4,408)
Net income/(expenditure)		11	236	696	943	1,266
Transfers between funds	16	-	(360)	360	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial (losses)/gains on defined benefit pension schemes	16, 27	-	(35)	-	(35)	(305)
Net movement in funds		11	(159)	1,056	908	961
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward	16	57	738	5,057	5,852	4,891
Total funds carried forward	16	68	579	6,113	6,760	5,852

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.

Academy @ Worden

Balance Sheet

Year Ended 31st August 2025

	Notes	2025 £000	2025 £000	2024 £000	2024 £000
Fixed assets					
Investments	11		-		500
Tangible assets	12		5,236		5,057
Current assets					
Debtors	13	828		201	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,478		802	
		2,306		1,003	
Liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	14	(551)		(683)	
Net current assets			1,755		320
Total assets less current liabilities			6,991		5,877
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	15		(231)		(25)
Net assets excluding pension liability			6,760		5,852
Defined benefit pension scheme asset/liability	27		-		-
Net assets including pension liability			6,760		5,852
Funds of the Academy Trust:					
Restricted funds					
Fixed asset fund	16	6,113		5,057	
Restricted income fund	16	579		738	
Pension reserve	16	-		-	
Total restricted funds			6,692		5,795
Unrestricted income funds	16		68		57
Total funds			6,760		5,852

The financial statements on pages 29 to 52 were approved by the governors, and authorised for issue on the8.11.25..... and are signed on their behalf by:


Mrs M T Woodall
 Chair & Community Governor

Company Limited by Guarantee
 Registration Number: 08360915

Academy @ Worden**Statement of Cash Flows****Year Ended 31st August 2025**

	Notes	2025 £000	2024 £000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	20	(558)	(154)
Cash flows from investing activities	22	1,028	(609)
Cash flows from financing activities	21	206	(5)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		676	(768)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1st September 2024		802	1,570
Cash and cash equivalents at 31st August 2025	23/24	1,478	802

Academy @ Worden

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2025

1 Accounting policies

General information and basis of preparation

Academy @ Worden is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in England. The address of the registered office is given in the Reference and Administrative Details given on page 2 of these financial statements and the principal place of business is Westfield Drive, Leyland, PR25 1QX The nature of the Academy Trusts operations and principal activities are set out in the Governors' Report on page 4.

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) 2019), the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by DfE, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

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

Going concern

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

Income

All 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 receivable

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

Academy @ Worden

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2025

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Income (continued)

- **Donations**
Donations are recognised on a receivable basis (where there are no performance-related conditions) where the receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.
- **Other income**
Other income, including the hire of facilities, is recognised in the period it is receivable and to the extent the Academy Trust has provided 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".

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.

- **Expenditure on raising funds**
This includes all expenditure incurred by the Academy Trust to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.
- **Charitable activities**
These are costs incurred on the Academy Trust's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the Academy Trust apportioned to charitable activities.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Academy @ Worden

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2025

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Tangible fixed assets

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

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

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

Freehold buildings	Over Lease Term / 2%
Furniture and equipment	25% straight line
Computer equipment	33.33% straight line
Motor vehicles	25% 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 and reclassified to freehold or leasehold land and buildings.

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

The building valuation represents the value of freehold assets as per the ESFA valuation carried out in 2013 by a RICS approved valuer. In this valuation the freehold buildings were valued at £3,472,000. The assets were valued using a depreciated replacement cost model and the buildings element is to be depreciated over a 125 year period (note 12).

Liabilities

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

Provisions

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

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

Academy @ Worden

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2025

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Leased assets

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

Financial instruments

The Academy Trust only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS 102. The financial assets and financial liabilities of the Academy Trust and their measurement basis are as follows:

Financial assets – trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 13. 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 notes 14 and 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 Part 11, Chapter 3 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Pensions Benefits

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

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

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2025

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Pensions Benefits (continued)

The LGPS is a funded multi-employer scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the Academy Trust in separate governor 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 operating income/(expenditure) are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability 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. As the Academy Trust cannot draw down on surplus funds and does not "control" the asset, any overall scheme surplus has been restricted in order to recognise a £nil asset/liability.

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 governors.

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 Group.

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

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

Academy @ Worden

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2025

2 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Total 2025 £000	Total 2024 £000
Capital grants	-	856	856	459
Donated fixed assets	-	62	62	920
Trips and other non public funds	-	78	78	20
Other donations	-	3	3	5
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		999	999	1,404

Income from donations and capital grants was £999,000 (2024 - £1,404,000) of which £nil (2024 - £nil) was attributable to unrestricted funds, £81,000 (2024 - £25,000) was attributable to restricted general funds and £918,000 (2024 - £1,379,000) was attributable to restricted fixed asset funds.

£856,000 (2024 - £459,000) of government grants were received for capital and maintenance works.

3 Funding for Academy Trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Total 2025 £000	Total 2024 £000
DfE grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	3,943	3,943	3,593
Pupil Premium	-	213	213	184
Teacher Pay grant	-	68	68	66
Teacher Pension grant	-	85	85	35
Rates grant	-	17	17	17
Core School Budget grant	-	146	146	-
NI grant	-	25	25	-
MSAG funding	-	-	-	127
Other grants	-	1	1	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		4,498	4,498	4,022
Other Government grants				
Local Authority grants	-	527	527	134
Other Government Grants	-	-	-	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		527	527	135
Exceptional Government funding				
Coronavirus Catch-up Premium	-	-	-	49
Other DfE Covid-19 funding	-	-	-	6
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		-	-	55
Total	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		5,025	5,025	4,212

Funding for Academy Trust's educational operations was £5,025,000 (2024 - £4,212,000) of which £nil (2024 - £nil) was attributable to unrestricted funds, £5,025,000 (2024 - £4,212,000) was attributable to restricted general funds and £nil (2024 - £nil) was attributable to restricted fixed asset funds.

£5,025,000 (2024 - £4,212,000) of government grants were received for the purposes of the day to day running costs of the Academy and its charitable objectives.

Academy @ Worden

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2025

4 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Total 2025 £000	Total 2024 £000
Hire of facilities	7	-	7	6
Supply insurance claim	-	-	-	14
Other Income	16	-	16	26
	<u>23</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>46</u>

Income from other trading activities was £23,000 (2024 - £46,000) of which £23,000 (2024 - £32,000) was attributable to unrestricted funds, £nil (2024 - £14,000) was attributable to restricted general funds and £nil (2024 - £nil) was attributable to restricted fixed asset funds.

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Total 2025 £000	Total 2024 £000
Short term deposits	11	-	11	12
	<u>11</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>

Investment income was £11,000 (2024 - £12,000) of which £11,000 (2024 - £12,000) was attributable to unrestricted funds, £nil (2024 - £nil) was attributable to restricted general funds and £nil (2024 - £nil) was attributable to restricted fixed asset funds.

6 Expenditure

	Non Pay Expenditure			Total 2025 £000	Total 2024 £000
	Staff Costs £000	Premises £000	Other Costs £000		
Academy Trust's educational operations					
Direct costs	3,611	-	556	4,167	3,613
Allocated support costs	205	432	311	948	795
	<u>3,816</u>	<u>432</u>	<u>867</u>	<u>5,115</u>	<u>4,408</u>

£23,000 (2024 - £32,000) of the above expenditure on the Academy Trust's educational operations was attributable to unrestricted funds, £4,870,000 (2024 - £4,202,000) was attributable to restricted general funds and £222,000 (2024 - £174,000) was attributable to restricted fixed asset funds.

Academy @ Worden

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2025

6 Expenditure (continued)

Net income/expenditure for the year includes:

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Operating lease rentals	7	7
Depreciation	222	174
Fees payable to the auditor for:		
Audit	9	8
Other services	2	2

No additional transactions have taken place under Section 5.2 of the 2024 Academy Trust Handbook which require additional disclosure.

7 Charitable activities

	Total 2025 £000	Total 2024 £000
Direct costs – educational operations	4,167	3,613
Support costs – educational operations	948	795
	<u>5,115</u>	<u>4,408</u>

Analysis of direct costs	Educational operations £000	Total 2025 £000	Total 2024 £000
Direct staff costs	3,611	3,611	3,171
Learning resources	208	208	174
Examination fees	57	57	42
School trips and visits	76	76	19
Depreciation	178	178	139
Other direct costs	37	37	68
Total direct costs	<u>4,167</u>	<u>4,167</u>	<u>3,613</u>

Analysis of support costs	Educational operations £000	Total 2025 £000	Total 2024 £000
Support staff costs	205	205	163
Depreciation	44	44	35
Premises costs	432	432	369
Other support costs	247	247	212
Governance costs	20	20	16
Total support costs	<u>948</u>	<u>948</u>	<u>795</u>

Academy @ Worden

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2025

8 Staff

(a) Staff costs

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Staff costs during the period were:		
Wages and salaries	2,686	2,477
Social security costs	306	255
Pension costs	663	559
	<u>3,655</u>	<u>3,291</u>
Agency staff costs	152	43
Staff restructuring costs	9	-
	<u>161</u>	<u>3,334</u>
Staff restructuring costs comprise:		
Redundancy payments	-	-
Severance payments	9	-
Other restructuring costs	-	-
	<u>9</u>	<u>-</u>

(b) Severance payments

The Academy Trust paid 1 severance payments in the year, disclosed in the following bands:

	No.
£0 - £25,000	<u>1</u>

(c) Special severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are special severance payments totalling £9,000 (2024: £nil). Individually, the payment was £9,000.

(d) Staff numbers

The average number of persons employed by the Academy Trust during the year, and the full-time equivalents, was as follows:

	2025 Number	2025 Full-time equivalent	2024 Number	2024 Full-time equivalent
Teachers	34	31	34	30
Administration and support	30	24	28	22
Management	7	7	7	7
	<u>71</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>59</u>

Academy @ Worden

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2025

8 Staff (continued)

(e) Higher paid staff

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

	2025 No.	2024 No.
£60,001 - £70,000	2	5
£70,001 - £80,000	2	1
£80,001 - £90,000	2	1
£90,001 - £100,000	1	-
	7	7

(f) Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the Governors and the senior management team as listed on page 2. 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 £777,000 (2024: £678,000).

9 Related party transactions - Governors' remuneration and expenses

One or more governors have been paid remuneration or have received other benefits from employment with the Academy Trust. The Principal and other staff governors only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of Principal and staff members under their contracts of employment, and not in respect of their role as governors. The value of governors' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

A Hammersley (Principal and governor):

Remuneration	£90,001 - £95,000. (2024: £85,001 - £90,000)
Employers' pension contributions	£25,001 - £30,000. (2024: £25,001 - £30,000)

K Law (staff governor):

Remuneration	£55,001 - £60,000 (2024: £35,001 - £40,000)
Employers' pension contributions	£15,001 - £20,000. (2024: £10,001 - £15,000)

A Howden (community governor):

Remuneration	£nil - £5,000. (2024: £nil - £5,000)
Employers' pension contributions	£nil - £5,000. (2024: £nil - £5,000)

P Smillie (staff governor – resigned 23/04/2025):

Remuneration	£40,001 - £45,000. (2024: £35,001 - £40,000)
Employers' pension contributions	£5,001 - £10,000. (2024: £10,001 - £15,000)

J Bale (staff governor):

Remuneration	£50,001 - £55,000. (2024: £30,001 - £35,000)
Employers' pension contributions	£10,001 - £15,000. (2024: £5,001 - £10,000)

J Bishop (staff governor - appointed 30/01/2025):

Remuneration	£nil - £5,000. (2024: £nil - £nil)
Employers' pension contributions	£nil - £5,000. (2024: £nil - £nil)

Academy @ Worden

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2025

9 Related party transactions - Governors' remuneration and expenses (continued)

During the year ended 31st August 2025, no travel and subsistence expenses reimbursed or paid to governors (2024: £nil).

Other related party transactions involving the governors are set out in note 28.

10 Governors' and officers' insurance

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

11 Investments

	Cash	Total
	Deposits	£000
Cost		
At 1 st September 2024	500	500
Additions	-	-
At 31 st August 2025	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>
Valuation adjustments		
At 1 st September 2024	500	500
Released in period	(500)	(500)
At 31 st August 2025	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Carrying Amounts		
At 31 st August 2024	500	500
At 31 st August 2025	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Academy @ Worden

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2025

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold Land and Buildings £000	Furniture and Fixtures £000	Plant and Equipment £000	Motor Vehicles £000	Total £000
Cost					
At 1 st September 2024	5,608	110	478	-	6,196
Additions	293	17	89	2	401
Disposals	-	(3)	-	-	(3)
At 31 st August 2025	<u>5,901</u>	<u>124</u>	<u>567</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>6,594</u>
Depreciation					
At 1 st September 2024	807	53	279	-	1,139
Charged in period	97	20	105	-	222
Disposals	-	(3)	-	-	(3)
At 31 st August 2025	<u>904</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>384</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,358</u>
Net book values					
At 31 st August 2024	4,801	57	199	-	5,057
At 31 st August 2025	<u>4,997</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>183</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5,236</u>

13 Debtors

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Trade debtors	2	6
VAT recoverable	75	60
Other debtors	615	54
Prepayments and accrued income	136	81
	<u>828</u>	<u>201</u>

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Trade creditors	197	249
Other taxation and social security	5	5
Other creditors	92	83
Accruals and deferred income	257	346
	<u>551</u>	<u>683</u>

Deferred income

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Deferred income at start of year	282	354
Released from previous years	(72)	(72)
Resources deferred in the year	-	-
Deferred income at end of year	<u>210</u>	<u>282</u>

Academy @ Worden

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2025

15 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Loans	231	25
	<u>231</u>	<u>25</u>

Other creditors relates to a loan received to fund energy efficient projects in the academy funded via the DfE Salix scheme with no interest charged on the balance outstanding. The cost of repaying the loan will be offset by the energy cost savings resulting from the works carried out. Loan repayments are made in September and March of each year for the life of the loan.

The total repayable after more than five years is £62,000.

16 Funds

	Balance at 1 st September 2024 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Gains, Losses and Transfers £000	Balance at 31 st August 2025 £000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	738	3,943	(3,742)	(360)	579
Pupil premium grant	-	213	(213)	-	-
Teacher Pay	-	68	(68)	-	-
Teacher Pension grant	-	85	(85)	-	-
Rates grant	-	17	(17)	-	-
Core School Budget grant	-	146	(146)	-	-
NI grant	-	25	(25)	-	-
Other DfE grants	-	1	(1)	-	-
Local Authority grants	-	527	(527)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	81	(81)	-	-
Pension reserve	-	-	35	(35)	-
	<u>738</u>	<u>5,106</u>	<u>(4,870)</u>	<u>(395)</u>	<u>579</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Transfer on conversion	4,801	-	(97)	293	4,997
DfE capital grants	-	877	-	-	877
Other capitalised assets	256	41	(125)	67	239
	<u>5,057</u>	<u>918</u>	<u>(222)</u>	<u>360</u>	<u>6,113</u>
Total restricted funds	5,795	6,024	(5,092)	(35)	6,692
Total unrestricted funds	57	34	(23)	-	68
Total funds	5,852	6,058	(5,115)	(35)	6,760

Academy @ Worden

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2025

16 Funds (continued)

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

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Academy was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward. At the year end £579,000 of these funds remained unspent.

Other DfE grants comprise additional funding received for the furtherance of education, which must be used in accordance with the specific terms of each grant. These monies had been fully utilised at the year end.

Local Authority funding for Special Education Needs (SEN) which was fully expended in the year along with central funding for other special educational projects.

Other restricted funds include contributions received for school trips and non public donations and grants and their related expenditure. These monies had been fully utilised at the year end.

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

	Balance at 1 st September 2023 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Gains, Losses and Transfers £000	Balance at 31 st August 2024 £000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	841	3,593	(3,575)	(121)	738
Pupil premium grant	-	184	(184)	-	-
Teacher Pay grant	-	66	(66)	-	-
Teacher Pension grant	-	35	(35)	-	-
Rates grant	-	17	(17)	-	-
MSAG Funding	-	127	(127)	-	-
Other DfE / ESFA grants	-	55	(55)	-	-
Local Authority grants	-	135	(135)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	39	(39)	-	-
Pension reserve	274	-	31	(305)	-
	1,115	4,251	(4,202)	(426)	738
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Transfer on conversion	3,544	-	(86)	1,343	4,801
DfE capital grants	-	13	-	(13)	-
Other capitalised assets	187	-	(88)	157	256
Other capital grants	-	1,366	-	(1,366)	-
	3,731	1,379	(174)	121	5,057
Total restricted funds	4,846	5,630	(4,376)	(305)	5,795
Total unrestricted funds	45	44	(32)	-	57
Total funds	4,891	5,674	(4,408)	(305)	5,852

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Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2025

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31st August 2025 are represented by:

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted General Funds £000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £000	Total Funds £000
Investments	-	-	-	-
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	5,236	5,236
Current assets	-	1,429	877	2,306
Current liabilities	-	(551)	-	(551)
Non-current liabilities	-	(231)	-	(231)
Pension scheme liability	-	-	-	-
Total net assets	-	647	6,113	6,760

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

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted General Funds £000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £000	Total Funds £000
Investments	-	500	-	500
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	5,057	5,057
Current assets	57	946	-	1,003
Current liabilities	-	(683)	-	(683)
Non-current liabilities	-	(25)	-	(25)
Pension scheme liability	-	-	-	-
Total net assets	57	738	5,057	5,852

18 Capital commitments

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Contracted for, but not provided in the financial statements	877	-

19 Commitments under operating leases

Operating leases

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

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Amounts due within one year	8	8
Amounts due between one and five years	-	-
Amounts due after five years	-	-
	8	8

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Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2025

20 Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash inflow from operating activities

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	943	1,266
Adjusted for:		
Depreciation (note 12)	222	174
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(918)	(1,379)
Interest receivable (note 5)	(11)	(12)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable (note 27)	(15)	(14)
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost (note 27)	(20)	(17)
(Increase) in debtors	(627)	(70)
(Decrease) in creditors	(132)	(102)
Net cash (used in) operating activities	(558)	(154)

21 Cash flows from financing activities

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Repayments of borrowing	(5)	(5)
Cash inflows from borrowing	211	-
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	206	(5)

22 Cash flows from investing activities

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Interest receivable	11	12
Investments released from/(into) long term deposits	500	(500)
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(339)	(580)
Donation of tangible fixed assets	(62)	(920)
Capital grants from DfE	856	13
Capital funding received from others	62	1,366
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	1,028	(609)

23 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Cash at bank and in hand	1,478	802
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	-	-
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,478	802

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Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2025

24 Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 st September 2024	Cash flows	Acquisition / disposal of subsidiaries	Finance leases	Other non-cash changes	At 31 st August 2025
Cash	802	676	-	-	-	1,478
Cash equivalents	-	-	-	-	-	-
Overdraft facilities repayable on demand	-	-	-	-	-	-
	802	676	-	-	-	1,478
Loans falling due within one year	(4)	(1)	-	-	-	(5)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(25)	(206)	-	-	-	(231)
Finance lease obligations	-	-	-	-	-	-
	(29)	(207)	-	-	-	(236)
Total	773	469	-	-	-	1,242

25 Contingent Liabilities

During the period of the funding agreement, in the event of the sale or disposal by other means of any capital asset for which a Government Capital grant was received, the School is required to either re-invest the proceeds or to repay 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, as the Secretary of State may require.

26 Members' Liability

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

27 Pension and similar obligations

The Academy Trust's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff, and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by Lancashire County Pension Fund. Both are multi-employer defined-benefit schemes.

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

Contributions amounting to £81,000 (2024: £71,000) were payable to the schemes at 31st August 2025 and are included within creditors.

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Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2025

27 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme to which both the member and employer makes contributions, as a percentage of salary – these contributions along with those made by employers 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 31st March 2020. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 27th October 2023 with the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, applying a notional investment return based on 1.7% above the rate of CPI. The key elements of the valuation outcome are:

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £567,000 (2024: £466,000).

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 FRS102 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.

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Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2025

27 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate governor-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31st August 2025 was £175,000 (2024: £149,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £133,000 (2024: £110,000), and employees' contributions totalled £42,000 (2024: £39,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 19.5% for employers and the rate for employees remains dependant on the earnings of the employee.

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

As described in note 1 the LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the Academy Trust, who were the employees transferred as part of the conversion from the maintained school 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 Academy Trust at the balance sheet date.

Principal Actuarial Assumptions	At 31 st August 2025	At 31 st August 2024
Rate of increase in salaries	4.0%	4.1%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment / inflation	2.6%	2.7%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	6.2%	5.0%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.5%	2.6%

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

	At 31 st August 2025	At 31 st August 2024
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	20.9	21.0
Females	23.5	23.5
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	22.0	22.2
Females	25.0	25.3

	Sensitivity analysis			
	Sensitivity 1	Sensitivity 2	Sensitivity 3	Sensitivity 4
	Central £000	+0.5% pa discount rate £000	+0.25% pa inflation £000	+0.25% pa pay growth £000
Liabilities	1,772	1,631	1,847	1,787
Assets	(2,630)	(2,630)	(2,630)	(2,630)
(Surplus)	(858)	(999)	(783)	(843)
Projected service cost	79	69	85	79
Projected net interest	(57)	(72)	(52)	(56)

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Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2025

27 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme (continued)

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

	Fair value at 31 st August 2025	Fair value at 31 st August 2024
Equities	1,186	1,118
Gilts	3	2
Corporate bonds	5	2
Property	218	199
Cash and other liquid assets	79	33
Other	1,139	989
Total market value of assets	2,630	2,343

The actual return on scheme assets was £157,000 (2024: £162,000).

Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Current service cost (net of employer contributions)	18	17
Interest income	121	115
Interest expense	(101)	(98)
Benefit changes, gain/(loss) on curtailment and gain/(loss) on settlement	-	-
Admin expenses	(4)	(3)
Total operating charge	34	31

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Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2025

27 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme (continued)

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

	2025 £000	2024 £000
At 1st September	2,013	1,890
Current service cost	115	93
Interest cost	101	98
Employee contributions	42	39
Actuarial (gain)/loss	(458)	22
Benefits paid	(41)	(129)
At 31st August	1,772	2,013

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

	2025 £000	2024 £000
At 1st September	2,343	2,164
Interest income	121	115
Actuarial gain	36	47
Employer contributions	133	110
Employee contributions	42	39
Benefits paid	(41)	(129)
Administration expenses	(4)	(3)
At 31st August	2,630	2,343

Surplus/(deficit) recognised in the financial statements:

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Scheme assets	2,630	2,343
Scheme obligations	(1,772)	(2,013)
Surplus in scheme	858	330
Restriction of scheme assets	(858)	(330)
Surplus/(deficit) recognised in the financial statements	-	-

28 Related Party Transactions

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

No related party transactions took place in the period of account, other than certain trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 9.

