

**Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**Annual Report and Financial Statements**

**Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

# **Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust**

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements**

**Year Ended 31st August 2024**

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# **Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust**

## **Reference and Administrative Details**

### **Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

#### Members

Mrs K Cooper  
Mrs S Cooper  
Mr A Marston  
Mr C Morley  
Mrs B Sprake  
Mr D Taylor  
Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education

#### Trustees

Mr P Ascroft (Staff Trustee)  
Mrs A Berry (Parent Trustee)  
Mrs J Cast (Foundation Trustee)  
Mrs K Cooper (Sponsor Trustee)  
Mrs S Cooper (Foundation Trustee)  
Mr J P Cowley (Ex-officio, Headteacher and Accounting Officer)  
Mrs W Gibbons (Staff Trustee)  
Mr S Gregson (Chair from 27<sup>th</sup> August 2024 and Foundation Trustee)  
Mrs C Heydon (Foundation Trustee, appointed 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024)  
Mr A Higham (Foundation Trustee, resigned 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023)  
Mrs J Hughes (Local Authority Trustee)  
Mr J Latham (Co-opted Trustee, appointed 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024)  
Mr A Marston (Chair and Foundation Trustee, retired 26<sup>th</sup> August 2024)  
Mrs Louise Morley (Foundation Trustee, appointed 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023)  
Prof G Moulton (Parent Trustee)  
Mr K Roberts (Community Trustee)  
Mr T Smith (Parent Trustee, retired 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024)  
M D Taylor (Foundation Trustee)  
Mr S A Websdell (Foundation Trustee)  
The Reverend M Woods (Ex-officio, retired 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024)

#### Secretary

Mrs L Hood

# **Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust**

## **Reference and Administrative Details**

### **Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

#### Senior Leadership Team

Assistant Headteacher	Mr P Almond
Headteacher	Mr J P Cowley
Assistant Headteacher	Mr A Duckworth
Business and Finance Manager	Mrs L Hood
Assistant Headteacher	Mrs C Lane
Leader of Pupil Premium Strategy	Mrs L Petts
Deputy Headteacher	Mr P Rawlinson
Assistant Headteacher	Mrs H Winter
Assistant Headteacher	Mr J Wood

Principal and Registered Office	Highfield Road Croston Leyland PR26 9HH
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Company Registration Number	07672781
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Independent Auditor	CWR Chartered Accountants 20 Mannin Way Lancaster Business Park Caton Road Lancaster LA1 3SW
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Bankers	Lloyds Bank Church Street Blackburn BB2 1JQ
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Solicitors	Browne Jacobson Mowbray House Castle Meadow Road Nottingham NG2 1BJ
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# **Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust**

## **Trustees' Report**

### **Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the period from the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 to the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report including a strategic report under company law.

The Academy Trust operates an academy for students aged 11 to 16 serving a catchment area which includes the five foundation parishes of Bretherton, Croston, Eccleston, Mawdesley with Bispham and Wrightington with Heskin and the named parishes of Appley Bridge, Banks, Douglas in Parbold, Hesketh with Beconsall, Hoole, Leyland St James, Rufford and Tarleton. Students are also drawn from outer parishes depending on the number of applications received. It has a student capacity of 950 and had a roll of 972 in the January 2024 school census.

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

### **1.1 Constitution**

The Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the Academy Trust. The trustees of Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust.

Details of the trustees who served throughout the year except as noted 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 Trustees' Indemnities**

Since the incorporation of the charitable company, the trustees have been indemnified in respect of their legal liability for financial loss arising as a result of a negligent act, accidental error or omission in the course of their official duties. As explained in note 10 to the Financial Statements the trustees have unlimited professional indemnity.

### **1.4 Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees**

The Members appoint a minimum of eleven trustees of whom:

- I. A minimum of three are appointed by the Diocesan Board of Education;
- II. A minimum of seven are nominated by the Parochial Church Councils; and
- III. The Incumbent shall be a Trustee Ex-Officio.

The proportions of the Board of Trustees of Bishop Rawstone C of E Academy are as follows:

- Up to three staff trustees, appointed by the members through such a process as they may determine. The members shall make all necessary arrangements for, and determine all matters relating to, an election of the staff trustees.
- Up to one Local Authority (LA) trustee, appointed by the LA.
- Three parent trustees, elected by parents of registered students at the academy. A parent trustee must be a parent of a student at the academy at the time when he/she is elected. The members shall make all necessary arrangements for, and determine all matters relating to, an election of the parent trustees. Any election of parent trustees which is contested shall be held by secret ballot.
- Arrangements for the election shall provide for every person entitled to vote, an opportunity by post or, if they prefer, by having his/her ballot paper returned to the academy trust by a registered student at the academy.
- The Headteacher, treated for all purposes as an Ex Officio Trustee. If the Headteacher chooses not to be a trustee, the position remains vacant.

# **Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust**

## **Trustees' Report**

### **Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

- Up to one sponsor trustee, appointed by the members.
- Up to one community trustee, appointed by the members.
- Eleven Foundation trustees, appointed by the Parochial Church Councils of Eccleston, Croston, Wrightington, Bretherton and Mawdesley.

#### **1.5 Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees.**

As there are normally only two or three new trustees a year, induction tends to be done informally and is tailored specifically to the individual. All trustees receive copies of all minutes and new trustees are invited to all main sub-committee meetings. A named trustee has responsibility for training and trustees are encouraged to access training courses provided by the LA. The Board of Trustees has a service level agreement with the Lancashire County Council's Governor Services Department. This agreement allows for any or all of the members of the Board of Trustees to attend any of the training courses provide by Lancashire County Council. Bespoke courses are provided in house.

#### **1.6 Organisational Structure**

The trustees' core responsibilities are to set and agree strategy with the Headteacher, to hold the Headteacher to account for the delivery of that strategy and educational outcomes and to supervise and monitor the financial performance of the academy ensuring probity and good value for money. The academy's senior leadership team comprises the Headteacher, the Deputy Headteacher, six Assistant Headteachers and the Business and Finance Manager. The Headteacher takes the role of Accounting Officer for the trust.

The senior leadership team controls the academy at an executive level implementing the policies laid down by the trustees and reporting back to them. As a group the senior leadership team is responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budget limits and the appointment of staff. Some spending control is devolved to departmental budget holders, with limits above which a member of the senior leadership team must countersign.

#### **1.7 Arrangements for Setting Pay and Remuneration of Key Management Personnel**

The Board of Trustees has adopted a whole school pay policy which will be reviewed on an annual basis. It has been developed to comply with the current School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document and is in line with the Guidance on School Teachers' Pay and Conditions. Pay scales for senior staff are set and reviewed in accordance with this policy. Pay decisions are overseen by the Board of Trustees who will act with integrity, confidentiality, objectivity and honesty in the best interests of the school.

Support staff are covered by the NJC scheme conditions of service and the academy has adopted the Lancashire County Council's pay and grading structure under the NJC scheme of conditions of service.

Trustees are volunteers and receive no pay or remuneration.

#### **1.8 Related Parties and Other Connected Charities and Organisations**

Connected to the academy is an entity called Bishop Rawstone Church of England International Language College Trust, a charity registered with the Charity Commission whose charity number is 1063725. The objects of this charity are to assist the furtherance and advancement of the education of the students who attend Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy.

# Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust

## Trustees' Report

### Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024

#### 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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 (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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2	2
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##### *Percentage of time spent on facility time:*

<i>Percentage of time</i>	<i>Number of employees</i>
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1-50%	2
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##### *Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time:*

Total cost of facility time	£1,787
Total pay bill	£4,946,042
Percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time	0.04%

##### *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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## Objectives and Activities

### 2.1 Objects and Aims

Unlike other Church of England schools, Bishop Rawstone is truly a community school with the vast majority of our students being drawn from the main foundation parishes.

It remains our challenge to ensure that the care and support we provide to our students, our nurturing yet challenging environment and the outstanding academic attainment achieved year-on-year continues, to make Bishop Rawstone the school of choice for parents.

Bishop Rawstone is committed to developing its students as confident, aspiring and well-rounded young adults fully prepared to make a significant contribution to society.

### 2.2 Objectives, Strategies and Activities

As a 'converter academy' we exist to advance education in the Chorley area in the county of Lancashire in the Diocese of Blackburn. Our school was the vision of Bishop Rawstone and we first opened our doors in 1960. Our initial objective was to ensure a smooth and seamless conversion of the school from foundation to academy status. In doing this the Board of Trustees was determined to maintain the traditional ethos, values, standards and achievements of the school, whilst continuing to work to fulfil the school's medium and longer-term development plans.

The aims of the academy are to provide outstanding education for all in an outstanding Christian academy.

Our Christian School as a clear vision:

# **Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust**

## **Trustees' Report**

### **Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

Bishop Rawstone is a Christian community that delights in seeking wisdom and knowledge, building relationships and character based upon the Word of God, enabling us all to flourish bravely and faithfully.

This based on our foundational biblical verse from the books of James:

"But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere." James 3:17

As a Church of England Academy, Bishop Rawstone has Christian worship at the heart of our everyday life. Our Collective Worship is driven by our Christian Distinctiveness but it runs much deeper than that. We care about human flourishing. Recognising the diverse backgrounds each member of the Bishop Rawstone community has, we strive to cultivate an atmosphere in which everyone can experience life in all its fullness.

### **The Roots**

#### **Ephesian 3:17-19**

*<sup>16</sup> I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

Young people today face many challenges both from the society in which they live and the education system that they experience. In our school we promote the presence of authentic Christian values as a narrative for being/behaving that stem from and express the teachings of Christ. For this reason, we know it is essential to equip our students with Christian values that serve as deep roots in their lives. We encourage our students through rooting their values within a sound theological framework and with reference to cardinal and theological virtues.

These values take students beyond just caring and sharing. The character that we endeavour to nurture is the root, the support system for the entirety of life.

Each of these roots symbolise our core values: Peace, Justice, Trust, Radical Relationships (Koinonia), Love, Patience, Service, Honesty, Hope, Courage, Thankfulness, Forgiveness, Wisdom, Respect and Compassion.

Each week we investigate new themes and values in a relevant and relatable way through Collective Worship and tutor groups. This allows time for both staff and students to reflect and think. We welcome the various clergy from our local area as well as further afield to share their wisdom and gifts with us.

Our School values are rooted in the following Christian values:

Hope, Service, Compassion, Fellowship, Wisdom, Peace.

Our mission is to have 'ambition for all' and this is delivered by challenging both the students and the adults to do their very best and by adhering to very exacting standards including:

- Ensuring staff consistently deliver outstanding teaching and learning opportunities.
- Preparing our young people to be outstanding citizens of tomorrow.
- Inspire and motivate staff and students to give the best of themselves.
- Develop our ITT provision.
- Continue to develop a curriculum fit for purpose, exciting and motivating to enable our young people to be excited by life-long learning.
- Display self-discipline.
- Foster good behaviour.
- Have pride in ourselves and in our school.
- Embrace new opportunities for students and staff.
- To fully develop the social, moral, spiritual and cultural development of all our young people underpinned by our Christian values.

Improvement Plan, objectives for the academic year 2024/2025:

- Priority one: Restructure the school day to maintain continuous curriculum improvement for our students.
- Priority two: Embedding Formative Assessment Year 2.

## **Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust**

### **Trustees' Report**

#### **Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

- Priority three: Improve the standard EBacc pass.
- Priority four: Improve 9-4 pass rate in German.
- Priority five: Restructure the SLT as appropriate to maintain its strong breadth and depth.

Accommodation and resources for learning:

- To continually look at building projects and requirements.
- To continue to look at new funding streams for further development of the site.

#### **2.3 Public Benefit**

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

The key public benefit delivered by Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy is the maintenance and development of the high-quality Christian education provided to our diverse mix of students.

In doing this Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy not only offers a broadly-based academic education but aims to educate the whole individual.

**Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust**

**Trustees' Report**

**Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

**Strategic report**

**3.1 Achievements and Performance**

Results were outstanding:

	2020/21 Teacher Assessed Grades	2021/22 Examinations (provisional figures before DfE confirmation in Oct.22)	2022/2023 Examinations (provisional figures before DfE confirmation in Oct.23)	2023/2024 Examinations (provisional figures before DfE confirmation in Oct.24)
Progress across 8 qualifications and Attainment Avg. across the same 8 qualifications as Progress 8.				
Progress 8	N/A	0.39 est. (0.54 est.)	0.58	0.62
Attainment 8	61.85	60.18 (61.64)	57.4	58.07
Percentage of pupils entering the English Baccalaureate, English Baccalaureate Average Point Score.				
EBacc Entry	67.20%	67%	67.4%	65.1%
EBacc APS	5.81	5.66 (5.69)	5.25	5.30
Attainment in the EBacc Subjects - percentage of cohort achieving a grade 5 or above in the EBacc subjects, and grade 4 or above in the EBacc subjects.				
Strong Pass % (Grade 5 or above)	60.80%	56.9% (56.9%)	34.2%	39.5%

## Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust

### Trustees' Report

#### Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024

Standard Pass % (Grade 4 or above)	67.20%	51.1% (51.1%)	54.5%	49.7%
Attainment in English and mathematics - percentage of pupils achieving a grade 5 or above in English and mathematics, and grade 4 or above in English and mathematics				
Strong Pass % (Grade 5 or above)	84.10%	75.5% (76.6%)	63.6%	74.4%
Standard Pass % (Grade 4 or above)	97.40%	89.4% (90.4%)	85.6%	91.3%
P8 in English and Mathematics				
P8 in English	N/A	+0.82 est. (1.0 est.)	+1.1	+1.1
P8 in Mathematics	N/A	+0.33 est. (0.33 est.)	+0.29	+0.45

### 3.2 Key Performance Indicators

The academy monitors its performance on examination results achieved, Ofsted and Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) reports received. It complies with all the terms and conditions of its Funding Agreement with the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and manages its reserves in line with the policies set out below.

### 3.3 Going Concern

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

# **Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust**

## **Trustees' Report**

### **Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

#### **4. Financial Review**

##### **4.1 Operating and Financial Review**

Most of the academy's income is obtained from the Department for Education (DfE) in the form of its General Annual Grant (GAG), the use of which is restricted to particular purposes; i.e. the objectives of the academy trust. The GAG received during the year covered by this report and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA).

On conversion to academy status on the 17<sup>th</sup> August 2011, all of the fixed assets of the former voluntary aided school were transferred to the new academy trust, and are shown as restricted asset funds. The balance sheet restricted fixed asset fund is reduced by depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets concerned, as explained in note 1 to the Financial Statements.

During the year, the academy benefitted from reduced energy costs following the installation of solar panels in 2022/2023. This also supported the academy's aim of reducing its carbon footprint.

Work on the new reception entrance to school was completed in November 2023. This project was funded from reserves and the total cost was £190,000.

Expenditure for the year covered by this report was covered by the GAG received from the DfE together with other incoming resources. The combined General Restricted Fund and Unrestricted Fund show a cumulative reserve, before the actuarial losses on defined benefit pension schemes, of £1,606,000. This cumulative reserve is the result of detailed and accurate budgeting and tight budgetary control procedures which have been firmly embedded in the academy trust's daily financial management.

The academy held revenue fund balances at the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024 of £1,606,000 comprising £558,000 of restricted funds and £1,048,000 of unrestricted general funds. Further details of the carry forward balances on each fund can be found in note 15 to the accounts

##### **4.2 Reserves Policy**

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

Under its Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy has no carried forward restriction on its reserves at the year end.

The trustees' Finance, Resources and Audit Committee has reviewed these reserve levels and believes that they should provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and to allow for unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance. Under normal circumstances the trustees would aim to maintain reserves of between 5% and 10% of GAG as an appropriate cushion.

As at the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024 the Academy had reserves based upon its GAG of 10%.

##### **4.3 Investment Policy**

Apart from the cash held for the operation of the Academy, Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy has no material investments. With respect to its cash holdings the Board of Trustees has adopted a low risk strategy. The main current account held by the academy is an interest-bearing account. The Academy also has a 32-day notice account which attracts a higher interest rate. This account is used when cash balances are high. In addition to this, the Academy also places funds in a fixed term deposit account.

# **Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust**

## **Trustees' Report**

### **Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

#### **4.4 Principal Risks and Uncertainties**

A risk register is maintained and is subject to regular update and review

The principal risk and uncertainty facing the academy at the moment is the current cost of living crisis, in particular rising energy costs and the cost of pay awards and how these rising costs are to be funded.

Another risk to the academy is the maintenance of student numbers as funding is directly related to the number of students on roll. However, the academy is oversubscribed and there has been no reduction in the number of applications received for 2024/25 admissions. In addition, the fact that there has been no drop in the birth rate in the local area and that additional housing has been built nearby means that there is unlikely to be a reduction in the number of students on roll for the foreseeable future. However, a school in close proximity has recently been one of the first recipients of government funding of £50 million to rebuild the school. This includes state of the art facilities such as a new swimming pool. This could sway some parents and their children into choosing that school over Bishop Rawstone.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the academy is exposed. The trustees have implemented a number of systems to assess risks in the operational areas of the academy and in relation to the control of finance.

The safety of all students and staff is paramount and procedures are in place to vet and badge visitors and all staff are conscious of the hazards associated with the bus lay-by in the academy grounds, which is heavily supervised at the appropriate times. The academy has recently erected security fencing and gates funded through the Condition Improvement Fund. Investment by the academy in a new reception area separate from the students' access further demonstrates the academy's commitment to safeguarding and reducing risk.

The continuing existence of the academy can best be guaranteed by the standards of education in its widest sense, which it provides. This is the preferred school for many families who could easily favour another. Anything less than full subscription could signal the beginning of financial and educational problems. Furthermore, the status of the academy as an ITT and School Direct training provider could be endangered by many factors such as government policies leaving it with high staffing costs and reduced income. Whilst the academy successfully operates as a single academy trust, the trustees are aware that a change in government policy could threaten this status.

Where significant financial risk still remains, it is ensured there is adequate cover through the Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA) scheme. The academy has an effective system of internal financial controls and this is explained in more detail in the Governance Statement.

#### **4.5 Fundraising**

The academy raises additional funds through the Bishop Rawstone Church of England International Language College Trust, which is a registered charity and claims gift aid on donations received. Parents of all new year 7 students are provided with information on how to donate if they wish to make voluntary contributions. The objectives of the Charity are the advancement of the education of the students of Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy and the local and business community through the development of the Academy, including the provision of facilities and educational items.

#### **5. Plans for Future Periods**

The academy will continue to work to maintain the performance of its students at all levels. Additionally, it will continue to look at the curriculum content to ensure future pathways for students. In particular it will ensure that the English Baccalaureate is made available to as many students as possible in each year group taking the EBacc range of subjects. The English Baccalaureate was introduced in 2010 and whilst not a qualification in itself, it recognises where students have secured a grade 5 or better across a core of academic subjects – English, mathematics, history or geography, the sciences and a language. The academy is at the top end of entries currently, with 65% of students entered and although there can be more growth this will need careful management due to staffing requirements in MFL

# **Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust**

## **Trustees' Report**

### **Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

and the needs of individual students. However, we understand that modern foreign languages are not subjects that all want to pursue to GCSE and therefore we need to ensure we use the time gained to best effect in KS4.

Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy continues to run a very successful Initial Teacher Training programme. The academy continues to work with Alliance Schools to develop a model which allows us to train the next generation of outstanding teachers. The academy is focussed to deliver outstanding teaching and learning through ensuring staff are highly trained and determined to deliver outstanding lessons.

The trustees and leaders are committed to ensure that all students have religious education lessons and a rich Christian educational experience.

The trustees recognise that through outstanding financial management, they have been able to invest in and improve very significantly the quality of the building environment and the upgrading of many areas of the academy. They have ambitions for this to continue but recognise however, that future plans will be dependent on funding availability. Increases in energy costs and pay will also have an impact on the funds available for future investments. The trustees also recognise that many classrooms are relatively small and that the future intake needs to be at current admission levels unless significant capital funding can be obtained.

#### **6. Auditor**

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024 and signed on the board's behalf by:

.....  
**Mr S Gregson**  
**Chair of Trustees**

# Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust

## Governance Statement

Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024

### 7.1 Scope of Responsibility

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

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

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

### 7.2 Governance

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

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr Andrew Marston (Chair)	3	3
Mr Stephen Gregson (Vice Chair)	3	3
Mr Paul Cowley (Headteacher)	3	3
Mr Philip Ascroft	2	3
Mrs Anita Berry	3	3
Mrs Joanna Cast	2	3
Mrs Kathleen Cooper	3	3
Mrs Sheila Cooper	3	3
Mrs Wendy Gibbons	3	3
Mrs Christine Heydon	2	2
Mr Andrew Higham	0	1
Mrs Julie Hughes	2	3
Mr John Latham	1	3
Mrs Louise Morley	2	3
Professor Georgina Moulton	0	3
Mr Karl Roberts	3	3
Mr Thomas Smith	0	1
Mr David Taylor	3	3
Mr Alistair Websdell	1	3

**The Governance Committee** is a sub-committee of the Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to be:

1. Responsible for the appointment and election processes to recruit new trustees to the Trust Board.
2. Responsible for the appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair.
3. Annually co-ordinate the membership of each committee.
4. Assign the Link Trustee roles on an annual basis.
5. Co-ordinate all Trust Board business (including allocating tasks and functions to individual committees).
6. Finalise the meeting schedule for the year.
7. Oversee and evaluate the annual skills audit and trustees' personal reviews.
8. Implement an annual 360-degree appraisal for the chair, as appropriate.
9. Oversee an annual review of the Clerk to Governors.

## Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust

### Governance Statement

#### Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024

10. Facilitate appropriate training for all members of the Trust Board.
11. Succession planning for the roles of Chair and Vice Chair.
12. Regularly review the effectiveness of governance at the Academy using self-review and external support as appropriate.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr Andrew Marston (Chair)	3	3
Mrs Joanna Cast	3	3
Mrs Sheila Cooper	3	3
Mr Paul Cowley (Headteacher)	3	3
Mr Stephen Gregson	2	3
Mrs Julie Hughes	1	3

The school converted to academy status in 2011 but kept the composition of the Board largely the same. An External Review of Governance was undertaken in 2015 and resulted in a number of changes in committee structures and operating arrangements. The Governance Committee keeps the school's governance under regular review including the committee terms of reference, membership, chairs, clerking arrangements and trustee training. Following an internal review in July 2019 it was agreed that the Audit Committee be subsumed into the Finance and Resources Committee and that the Teaching School Committee was no longer required. In addition to this, a Curriculum Committee was re-established for 2019/2020 onwards, to focus on curriculum design, monitor curriculum implementation and evaluate the impact of the curriculum and the overall quality of education provided for all students. Another external review of governance was conducted in 2024 and further details are included below.

The Board receives regular detailed reports on the performance of the school and holds a Curriculum Committee meeting, to which all trustees are invited to attend, at the start of the autumn term to undertake a full and detailed analysis of results from the previous year prior to assessing performance and agreeing priorities for the coming year. Trustees are confident that the information they receive is timely and accurate and enables them to hold the senior leadership team to account. Trustees closely monitor the school's financial position in the light of continuing uncertainty about school funding and have agreed a number of significant changes that have helped to ensure a balanced budget.

In the last 12 months, 1 sponsor trustee was reappointment, 1 co-opted trustee and 5 foundation trustees (2 reappointments and 3 new appointments) were appointed and 3 foundation trustees, 1 parent trustee and 1 ex-officio trustee retired.

The primary purpose of the Academy Board is to set out the ethos, vision and direction for the school and to make sure that our Headteacher and Senior Team are delivering the best possible education for all of our students within the financial resources that are available.

At the start of the year, we agreed a set of Board priorities designed to make progress towards our Overall Ambitions for the period 2022 – 2027, as follows:

1. Maintain the focus on our ambition to achieve an outstanding judgement in the next Ofsted inspection and to meet the required standard for SIAMS.
2. Undertake an External Governance Review and revise the Articles of Association of the Trust, as required.
3. Complete the review of the current Admissions Policy and, if necessary, consult stakeholders on any proposed changes.
4. Continue to develop relationships with key stakeholders particularly Parishes and new Clergy.
5. Ensure successful integration of new governors and prepare for transition to new Trust Leadership.

# **Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust**

## **Governance Statement**

### **Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

During the year, we have worked closely with the Senior Leadership Team to monitor progress through reports, data and visits to ensure that the School Development Plan is on track to ensure that we achieve the best outcomes in future Inspections and our priorities for the school and the students are being addressed. We have completed the review of our Admissions Policy concluding that, subject to some minor changes, it remains fit for purpose and will now be subject to statutory consultation with external stakeholders. We continued work on improving stakeholder engagement, particularly through attendance at a number of parental events. At the end of the year, we received the very positive report of our External Review of Governance which showed that the Governing Board was operating effectively in its core functions. The review focused on the following areas: Strategic Leadership, Accountability, People, Structures, Compliance and Evaluation. Inevitably, there are some areas for improvement and these will be addressed in the coming year.

Everyone at Bishop Rawstone was absolutely delighted with the GCSE results that were achieved by our students following their examinations in Summer 2024. This year's results were some of the best ever achieved by the school. In English and Maths 26% of students achieved a Grade 7 or better in both (slightly up on 2023, 23% in 2019). 74% of students achieved a strong pass (9-5 grades) in both subjects (10% up on 2023) and 91% achieved a standard pass in both subjects (9-4 grades), nearly 6% up on 2023.

Results across the whole curriculum reflect our commitment to providing a broad and balanced curriculum and show that our Class of 2019 have maximised their opportunities and potential at Bishop Rawstone. Across the whole year group so many students achieved grades that reflect so well the effort which they have consistently put in during their time with us.

None of this happens in isolation and huge thanks go to our teaching and support staff. Of course, this would not be possible without the parents who have supported us over the last five years in shaping the academic and spiritual lives of this cohort to whom we give our very best wishes for the future. The Board of Trustees has had an unwavering and unstinting commitment to driving forward the progression and attainment of our students, over many years but, after all the problems of the last few years, it is heartening to see our students continue to do so well.

The Board's priorities for 2024/25 will continue to focus on moving forward with our longer-term ambitions and providing the ongoing support and challenge to our school leaders that underpins our vision that Bishop Rawstone is a Christian community that delights in seeking wisdom and knowledge, building relationships and character based upon the Word of God enabling us all to flourish bravely and faithfully.

**The Finance, Resources & Audit Committee** is a sub-committee of the Board of Trustees. Its purpose is:

#### **Finance Responsibilities**

- To provide guidance and assistance to the Headteacher and the trust board on all financial matters.
- To recommend to the trust board internal financial regulations on the financial management of the academy, in accordance with guidance issued by the ESFA as set out in the Academy Trust Handbook.
- To review and approve the three-year financial plan, taking into account the priorities of the academy's improvement/development plan and government policy.
- To consider budget plans presented by the Headteacher and to make recommendations to the trust board for approval.
- To examine budget monitoring reports and investigate and resolve any significant variances on behalf of the trust board.
- To approve virements between budget headings where the value is in excess of the sum delegated to the Headteacher under the academy's internal financial regulations.
- To review, make recommendations on and approve all finance policies of the academy including those relating to charges, lettings and income.
- To consider the appropriate level of reserves and balances bearing in mind guidance produced by the Secretary of State.
- To consider the annual audited accounts of all funds prior to presentation to the trust board.
- To review and approve the Trustees Report to form part of the statutory accounts of the trust board and for filing in accordance with the Companies Act requirements.

# **Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust**

## **Governance Statement**

### **Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

- To consider audit reports and other relevant reports and make recommendations to the trust board.
- To consider and advise on any financial matter referred to it by the trust board.
- To respond on behalf of the trustees and trust board to any consultations.

#### **Staffing responsibilities**

- To consider, advise and make appropriate recommendations to the Headteacher on all aspects of HR strategy including policy and procedures.
- To ensure that all the procedures relating to the recruitment, selection and appointment of staff are in place and that they are kept under review following any changes in legislation.
- To support the Headteacher, where necessary, with the appointment of senior members of staff.
- To ensure that consultation is carried out as required (e.g. over pay policy) with all staff or with recognised trade unions.
- To check that the arrangements for staff appraisal and performance management are in place and being developed.
- To monitor the programme of staff development and training and ensure it meets the needs of the academy development/improvement plan and of the staff.
- Review annually the unit total of the academy and the effect, if any, on the ISR.

Note: (The appointment of a Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher is not a function of this Committee. Headteachers cannot take part in the appointment process for their successor).

#### **Premises responsibilities**

- To consider, advise and make appropriate recommendations to the Headteacher on all aspects of the premises strategy, including statutory policies and procedures.
- Monitor the academy's capital expenditure programme to ensure it is on time, on budget and on specification.
- Review capital proposals and make recommendations to the trust board.
- Ensure all capital acquisitions and disposals accord with the overall strategy.
- Ensure the effective use of premises, particularly in relation to utilisation and efficiency.
- To receive updates from the lettings agents regarding the advertising and letting of the land and buildings out of academy session times.
- To ensure that the academy complies with all relevant legislation pertaining to premises.

#### **Audit responsibilities**

This committee will manage the programme of internal scrutiny to provide independent assurance to the board that its financial and non-financial controls and risk management procedures are operating effectively. The adequacy of arrangements will be established as part of the process leading to the accounting officer's annual statement and, where appropriate, through the self-assessment review of financial management and governance, FMGS.

- To have in place a process for checking financial systems, controls, transactions and risks (internal scrutiny).
- To achieve internal scrutiny which delivers objective and independent assurance.
- To provide assurance to trustees that risks are being adequately identified and managed by:
  - reviewing the risks to internal financial control at the academy.
  - agreeing a programme of work to address, and provide assurance on, those risks.
- To inform the governance statement that accompanies the annual accounts and, so far as is possible, provide assurance to the external auditors.
- To consider and advise the trust board on the assessment of overall audit needs.
- To advise the trust board on the appointment and remuneration of external auditors and the scope of their work.
- To guide the external auditor on the nature and scope of the audit as necessary.
- To consider and advise the trust board on external audit reports and management letters.
- To appoint the internal auditor and set the overall scope of the checks.
- To review reports from the internal auditor on the effectiveness of the financial procedures and controls.
- To consider and advise the trust board on peer review and internal audit reports.
- To receive and review relevant reports relating to audit.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

## Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust

### Governance Statement

Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mrs Sheila Cooper (Chair)	3	3
Mr Philip Ascroft	1	3
Mrs Anita Berry	2	3
Mrs Kathleen Cooper	3	3
Mr Paul Cowley (Headteacher)	3	3
Mr Stephen Gregson	2	3
Mr Andrew Marston	2	3
Mr Karl Roberts	2	3
Mr Thomas Smith	0	1
Mr David Taylor	3	3
Mr Alistair Websdell	3	3

**The Curriculum Committee** is a sub-committee of the Board of Trustees.

The main function of the committee is to advise the trust board on all matters concerning the curriculum. The committee will monitor the effectiveness of curriculum design and implementation in bringing about a positive impact on the overall quality of education for all students.

Committee meetings will be 'front-loaded' at the beginning of the year in line with the school development planning and student tracking cycles.

- Ensure that the school's curriculum is balanced and broadly based, and gives all students access to the knowledge and skills they need for their next steps.
- Review the aims of the school curriculum in relation to the current statutory requirements, including those for Religious Education, Collective Worship and Relationships and Sex (RSE) Education.
- Monitor the progress and evaluate the impact of Key Stage 3 strategy, including literacy and numeracy across the curriculum.
- Request and receive reports, as and when required, from key members of staff e.g. curriculum leaders and senior leaders, and from respective link trustees
- Ensure that there are effective procedures in place for the quality assurance of teaching and learning, the curriculum, inclusion and the sharing of good practice throughout the school.
- Evaluate the overall effectiveness of the curriculum, using a variety of different evidence sources.
- Ensure that committee members and other trustees keep themselves informed of the key initiatives and take part in appropriate training and development activities and incorporate into meetings where necessary.
- Review committee progress on a regular basis, taking into account performance, constitution and terms of reference to make sure that the committee is operating at its full potential.
- Be mindful of the requirements of the Equalities Act 2010

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mrs Julie Hughes (Chair)	3	3
Mrs Anita Berry	1	3
Mrs Joanna Cast	2	3
Mrs Kathleen Cooper	1	3
Mr Paul Cowley (Headteacher)	3	3
Mrs Wendy Gibbons	3	3
Mr Stephen Gregson	1	1
Mr Andrew Higham	1	1
Mr John Latham	2	3
Mr Andrew Marston	3	3
Mrs Louise Morley	3	3

# Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust

## Governance Statement

### Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024

Professor Georgina Moulton	0	3
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#### 7.3 Review of Value for Money

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

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

#### Principles of Best Value

The Board of Trustees applies the principles of best value:

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>Challenge</b> | - regularly reviewing the functions of the academy, challenging how and why services are provided and setting targets and performance indicators for improvement. Challenging proposals and examining them for effectiveness, efficiency and cost. |
| <b>Compare</b>   | - monitoring outcomes and comparing performance with similar academies   |
| <b>Consult</b>   | - consulting appropriate stakeholders especially students and parents, about the services which the academy provides   |
| <b>Compete</b>   | - securing competition to ensure that goods and services are purchased in the most economic, efficient and effective manner to meet the needs of the academy.  |

#### Application of Best Value Principles

Examples of current practices which demonstrate the application of Best Value principles and any planned developments in academy policy and practices to enhance best value within the Academy are identified in this statement.

#### Improving educational results

We have ensured that resources are directed to where they are most needed and most effective in improving outcomes for all students for example by:

- Targeting resources in key areas such as literacy, numeracy and phonics
- Targeting support where it is most needed, for example Pupil Premium and SEN students
- Appointing a senior leader with specific responsibility for Pupil Premium
- Appointing a senior leader with specific responsibility for curriculum development
- Focusing on the needs of particular students and ensuring that the support they receive is relevant to them by increasing parents' involvement in their child's education, particularly for the 'hard to reach' students.
- Implementing a staff performance management system which ensures staff consistently deliver outstanding teaching and learning opportunities
- Introducing a mentoring system for GCSE students
- Further developing our network of Alliance Schools to support, encourage and raise attainment in other schools and to share good practice.

## **Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust**

### **Governance Statement**

#### **Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

- Developing our status as a School Direct provider of Initial Teacher Training (ITT) and working with our Alliance Schools and HEI partners to develop an ITT model so that we can train the next generation of outstanding teachers.
- Appointing a Pastoral Liaison and Intervention Manager
- Updating our communication systems by introducing a new online parental and student communication system
- Achievement of an outstanding SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspection.
- Introducing a staff wellbeing programme to ensure staff are healthy and well both mentally and physically which is crucial to whole school success
- Training staff in youth mental health and wellbeing so that all students can be supported
- To make the best use of the National Tutoring Programme funding by supporting those who need it the most.

The effectiveness of these strategies is monitored and evidenced in our outstanding GCSE results.

#### **Financial and governance oversight**

The Board of Trustees receives regular monitoring reports and is active in its role of challenging robustly. Trustees are invited to challenge decisions and ask relevant questions. The work of the Board of Trustees is further informed by Internal Audit reports.

#### **Better purchasing**

Examples of steps taken to ensure value for money during the procurement process include:

- Reviewing all contracts annually
- Adopting a formal tendering process for major purchases of supplies and services
- Requesting references from other schools when contracting with a new supplier
- To use LASBM approved partners where possible
- To collaborate with other schools to obtain further discount on purchases

#### **Income generation**

Income generation potential is maximised by:

- working in partnership with a lettings company to market and manage lettings.
- effective marketing and promotion of our 3G all-weather pitch which is available to the local community to let which will provide a long-term income stream to the academy
- using our network of Alliance Schools to support each other
- recruiting trainee teachers to our School Direct programme

#### **Reviewing controls and managing risks**

The Finance, Resources and Audit Committee has been established to regularly review controls and risks to the Academy. Regular budget monitoring reports are issued to budget holders, the Senior Leadership Team and the Board of Trustees.

Actions taken to manage risk include:

- the academy is a member of the Risk Protection Arrangements (RPA) scheme
- professional expertise is sought for specialist advice where needed

# **Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust**

## **Governance Statement**

### **Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

#### **Maintenance of the school estate**

The academy has a service level agreement with the Blackburn Diocese Board of Education, DBE Services TPM4 Schools scheme. This service provides support and advice to schools in relation to the maintenance, management and development of the school buildings.

The academy also has a service level agreement with Blackpool Council to provide Health and Safety advice and services.

#### **Future Objectives**

- To maintain staffing levels at a maximum of 80% of income
- To introduce further efficiency savings to minimise the effect of increased staffing costs and reduced funding
- To review the Best Value statement at each autumn term meeting

#### **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 Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust for for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

#### **7.5 Capacity to Handle Risk**

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

#### **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 Trustees;
- regular reviews by the Finance, Resources and Audit 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;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties, and;
- identification and management of risks.

The Board of Trustees has decided to appoint Redrambler Ltd as internal auditor. The role includes giving advice on financial and other matters and performing a range of checks on the academy trust's financial and other systems. On a twice-yearly basis, the internal auditor reports to the board of trustees, through the Finance, Resources and Audit Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the trustees' financial responsibilities. On an annual basis the auditor prepares a summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

# **Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust**

## **Governance Statement**

### **Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

In particular, the checks carried out in the current period included:

- cashflow and VAT
- risk management
- compliance with the Academy Trust Handbook 2023

The Internal Audit function in 2023/2024 has been fully delivered in line with the ESFA's requirements and no material control issues arose as a result of the Internal Auditor's work.

#### **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:

- the work of the internal auditor;
- the work of the external auditor;
- the school resource management self-assessment tool
- the work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- correspondence from ESFA

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

#### **7.8 Conclusion**

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

.....  
**Mr S Gregson**  
**Chair of Trustees**

.....  
**Mr J P Cowley**  
**Accounting Officer**

## **Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust**

### **Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance**

#### **Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

As Accounting Officer of Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Trust Board of Trustees and the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management, received by the Academy Trust, under the funding agreement in place between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2023, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

I confirm that I and the Academy Trust Board of Trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the Academy Trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the Academy Trust's funding agreement and the Academy Trust Handbook 2023.

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 Trustees and ESFA.

.....  
**Mr J P Cowley**  
**Accounting Officer**

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024

## **Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust**

### **Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

#### **Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

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

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024;
- 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 trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

.....  
**Mr S Gregson**  
**Chair of Trustees**

## **Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust**

### **Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust**

**Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

#### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust (the 'Academy Trust') for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024 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 2023 to 2024 issued by the Education & Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Academy Trust's affairs as at the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024, 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 2023 to 2024 issued by the Education & Skills Funding Agency.

#### **Basis for opinion**

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

#### **Conclusions relating to going concern**

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

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

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

#### **Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees 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)*

## **Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust**

### **Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust**

#### **Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

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 trustees' 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 trustees 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 and the directors' 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 trustees**

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 24, the trustees (who are also the directors of the Academy Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the Academy Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the Academy Trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

*(Continued)*

## **Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust**

### **Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust**

**Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

#### **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.

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

#### **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.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements in the financial statements may not be detected, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with the ISAs (UK). For instance, the further removed non compliance is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the auditor is to become aware of it or to recognise the non compliance. Also the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

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

#### **Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the 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.

**Bishop Rawstorne Church of England Academy Trust**

**Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Bishop Rawstorne Church of England Academy Trust**

**Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

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

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024

## **Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust**

### **Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust and the Education & Skills Funding Agency**

#### **Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024 and further to the requirements of the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust during the year from the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 to the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust and ESFA 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 Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

#### **Respective responsibilities of Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust Accounting Officer and the reporting accountant**

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023, 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 Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024. 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 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 to the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

#### **Approach**

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountant of Academy Trusts issued by ESFA. 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 Section 4 of the Guide For External Auditors section of the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by the ESFA; and
- Planning and performing any additional tests we deemed necessary to express an opinion on regularity.

*(Continued)*

**Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust**

**Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust and the Education & Skills Funding Agency**

**Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

**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 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 to the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024 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 Chartered Accountants  
20 Mannin Way  
Lancaster Business Park  
Caton Road  
Lancaster  
LA1 3SW

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024

## Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust

### Statement of Financial Activities incorporating Income & Expenditure Account

Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted General Funds £000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £000	<b>Total 2024 £000</b>	<b>Total 2023 £000</b>
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>						
Donations and capital grants	2	-	256	49	305	348
Charitable activities:						
Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations	3	-	6,132	-	6,132	5,859
Other trading activities	4	137	-	-	137	117
Investments	5	17	-	-	17	6
<b>Total</b>		<b>154</b>	<b>6,388</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>6,591</b>	<b>6,330</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Charitable activities:						
Academy trust's educational operations	6,7	103	6,151	150	6,404	6,139
<b>Total</b>		<b>103</b>	<b>6,151</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>6,404</b>	<b>6,139</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>51</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>(101)</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>191</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	15	-	(136)	136	-	-
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>						
Actuarial (losses)/gains on defined benefit pension schemes	15, 26	-	(270)	-	(270)	512
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>51</b>	<b>(169)</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>(83)</b>	<b>703</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>						
Total funds brought forward	15	998	727	9,569	11,294	10,591
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	15	<b>1,049</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>9,604</b>	<b>11,211</b>	<b>11,294</b>

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

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

# Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust

## Balance Sheet

Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024

	Notes	2024 £000	2024 £000	2023 £000	2023 £000
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	11		9,604		9,569
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	12	91		71	
Cash at bank and in hand		2,010		1,911	
		<u>2,101</u>		<u>1,982</u>	
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(494)</u>		<u>(467)</u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>1,607</u>		<u>1,515</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			11,211		11,084
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	14		-		(10)
<b>Net assets excluding pension liability</b>			<u>11,211</u>		<u>11,074</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme asset	26		-		220
<b>Net assets including pension liability</b>			<u>11,211</u>		<u>11,294</u>
<b>Funds of the Academy Trust:</b>					
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Fixed asset fund	15	9,604		9,569	
Restricted income fund	15	558		507	
Pension reserve	15	-		220	
<b>Total restricted funds</b>			10,162		10,296
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>	15		1,049		998
<b>Total funds</b>			<u>11,211</u>		<u>11,294</u>

The financial statements on pages 31 to 57 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024 and are signed on their behalf by:

.....  
**Mr S Gregson**  
**Chair of Trustees**

Company Limited by Guarantee  
Registration Number: 07672781

**Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust**

**Statement of Cash Flows**

**Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

	Notes	<b>2024 £000</b>	<b>2023 £000</b>
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net cash provided by operating activities	19	228	204
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>	21	(119)	(893)
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>	20	(10)	(10)
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>		<u>99</u>	<u>(699)</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023</b>		1,911	2,610
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024</b>	22/23	<u>2,010</u>	<u>1,911</u>

# **Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust**

## **Notes to the Financial Statements**

### **Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

#### **1 Accounting policies**

##### **General information and basis of preparation**

Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust 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 Highfield Road, Croston, Leyland, PR26 9HH. The nature of the Academy Trusts operations and principal activities are set out in the Trustees' 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 2023 to 2024 issued by ESFA, 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 trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Academy Trust to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of 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.

# **Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust**

## **Notes to the Financial Statements**

### **Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

#### **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.

# Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024

#### 1 Accounting policies (continued)

##### Expenditure (continued)

- **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.

##### Tangible fixed assets

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

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the Balance Sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. Where there are specific 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:

Leasehold buildings	Over 125 years straight line
Furniture and equipment	33% straight line
Computer equipment	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 leasehold assets as per the ESFA valuation carried out in 2016 by a RICS approved valuer. In this valuation the leasehold buildings were valued at £7,972,000. The assets were valued using a depreciated replacement cost model and are to be depreciated over a 125-year period (see note 11).

# **Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust**

## **Notes to the Financial Statements**

**Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

### **1 Accounting policies (continued)**

#### **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.

#### **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 12. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

# **Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust**

## **Notes to the Financial Statements**

### **Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

#### **1 Accounting policies (continued)**

##### **Financial instruments (continued)**

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 13 and 14. 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.

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

# **Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust**

## **Notes to the Financial Statements**

### **Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

#### **1 Accounting policies (continued)**

##### **Fund Accounting**

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

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

Restricted general funds comprise all other restricted funds received with restrictions imposed by the funder/donor and include grants from the Department for Education 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 26, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024. 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.

## Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements

#### Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024

#### 2 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
Capital grants	-	20	20	59
Trips and other non public funds	-	254	254	288
Other donations	-	31	31	1
	<u>-</u>	<u>305</u>	<u>305</u>	<u>348</u>

Income from donations and capital grants was £305,000 (2023 - £348,000) of which £nil (2023 - £1,000) was attributable to unrestricted funds, £256,000 (2023 - £288,000) was attributable to restricted general funds and £49,000 (2023 - £59,000) was attributable to restricted fixed asset funds.

£20,000 (2023 - £59,000) 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 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
<b>DfE/ESFA grants</b>				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	5,488	5,488	5,315
Other DfE Group grants:				
Pupil Premium	-	112	112	102
Supplementary grant	-	-	-	150
Mainstream Additional grant	-	186	186	77
Teacher Pay/Pension grant	-	145	145	-
Rates grant	-	21	21	19
Other grants	-	-	-	8
Computing Hub Programme	-	-	-	74
	<u>-</u>	<u>5,952</u>	<u>5,952</u>	<u>5,745</u>
<b>Other Government grants</b>				
Local Authority grants	-	156	156	84
	<u>-</u>	<u>156</u>	<u>156</u>	<u>84</u>
<b>Exceptional Government funding</b>				
Other Coronavirus exception support	-	24	24	30
	<u>-</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>30</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,132</u>	<u>6,132</u>	<u>5,859</u>

#### 3 Funding for Academy Trust's educational operations (continued)

# Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024

Funding for Academy Trust's educational operations was £6,132,000 (2023 - £5,859,000) of which £nil (2023 - £nil) was attributable to unrestricted funds, £6,132,000 (2023 - £5,859,000) was attributable to restricted general funds and £nil (2023 - £nil) was attributable to restricted fixed asset funds.

£6,132,00 (2023 - £5,859,000) of government grants were received for the purposes of the day to day running costs of the Academy and its charitable objectives.

#### 4 Other trading activities

	<b>Unrestricted Funds £000</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £000</b>	<b>Total 2024 £000</b>	<b>Total 2023 £000</b>
Hire of facilities	60	-	60	57
Sale of educational goods and services	16	-	16	7
School Direct Income	61	-	61	53
	<u>137</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>137</u>	<u>117</u>

Income from other trading activities was £137,000 (2023 - £117,000) of which £137,000 (2023 - £117,000) was attributable to unrestricted funds, £nil (2023 - £nil) was attributable to restricted general funds and £nil (2023 - £nil) was attributable to restricted fixed asset funds.

#### 5 Investment income

	<b>Unrestricted Funds £000</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £000</b>	<b>Total 2024 £000</b>	<b>Total 2023 £000</b>
Short term deposits	17	-	17	6
	<u>17</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>6</u>

Investment income was £17,000 (2023 - £6,000) of which £17,000 (2023 - £6,000) was attributable to unrestricted funds, £nil (2023 - £nil) was attributable to restricted general funds and £nil (2023 - £nil) was attributable to restricted fixed asset funds.

# Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024

#### 6 Expenditure

	<b>Staff Costs £000</b>	<b>Non Pay Expenditure Premises £000</b>	<b>Other Costs £000</b>	<b>Total 2024 £000</b>	<b>Total 2023 £000</b>
Academy Trust's educational operations					
Direct costs	4,648	119	607	5,374	5,118
Allocated support costs	<u>325</u>	<u>559</u>	<u>146</u>	<u>1,030</u>	<u>1,021</u>
	<u>4,973</u>	<u>678</u>	<u>753</u>	<u>6,404</u>	<u>6,139</u>

£104,000 (2023 - £78,000) of the above expenditure on the Academy Trust's educational operations was attributable to unrestricted funds, £6,151,000 (2023 - £5,915,000) was attributable to restricted general funds and £149,000 (2023 - £145,000) was attributable to restricted fixed asset funds.

Net income/expenditure for the year includes:

	<b>2024 £000</b>	<b>2023 £000</b>
Operating lease rentals	20	14
Depreciation	150	145
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	2
Fees payable to the auditor for:		
Audit	7	6
Other services	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
	<u>182</u>	<u>172</u>

No additional transactions have taken place under Section 5.2 of the 2023 Academies Financial Handbook which require additional disclosure.

# Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024

### 7 Charitable activities

	<b>Total 2024 £000</b>	<b>Total 2023 £000</b>
<b>Direct costs – educational operations</b>	5,374	5,118
<b>Support costs – educational operations</b>	1,030	1,021
	<u>6,404</u>	<u>6,139</u>

<b>Analysis of direct costs</b>	<b>Educational operations £000</b>	<b>Total 2024 £000</b>	<b>Total 2023 £000</b>
Direct staff costs	4,648	4,648	4,364
Depreciation	119	119	116
Learning resources	206	206	173
Technology costs	20	20	25
Examination fees	94	94	92
School trips and visits	254	254	288
Other direct costs	33	33	60
<b>Total direct costs</b>	<u>5,374</u>	<u>5,374</u>	<u>5,118</u>

<b>Analysis of support costs</b>	<b>Educational operations £000</b>	<b>Total 2024 £000</b>	<b>Total 2023 £000</b>
Support staff costs	325	325	415
Depreciation	31	30	29
Premises costs	528	529	426
Other support costs	132	132	136
Governance costs	14	14	15
<b>Total support costs</b>	<u>1,030</u>	<u>1,030</u>	<u>1,021</u>

# Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024

### 8 Staff

#### (a) Staff costs

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Staff costs during the period were:		
Wages and salaries	3,659	3,484
Social security costs	388	368
Pension costs	868	825
	<u>4,915</u>	<u>4,677</u>
Agency staff costs	35	93
Staff restructuring costs	23	9
	<u>4,973</u>	<u>4,779</u>
Staff restructuring costs comprise:		
Redundancy payments	-	-
Severance payments	23	9
Other restructuring costs	-	-
	<u>23</u>	<u>9</u>

#### (b) Severance payments

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

	No.
£0 - £25,000	1
£25,001 - £50,000	-
£50,001 - £100,000	-
	<u>-</u>

#### (c) Special severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are special severance payments totalling £12,000 (2023: £7,000). Individually, the payments were £12,000.

#### (d) Staff numbers

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

	2024 Number	2024 Full-time equivalent	2023 Number	2023 Full-time equivalent
Teachers	53	51	53	50
Administration and support	31	21	28	20
Management	9	9	9	9
	<u>93</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>79</u>

# Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024

#### 8 Staff (continued)

##### (e) Higher paid staff

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

	2024 No.	2023 No.
£60,001 - £70,000	5	3
£70,001 - £80,000	-	-
£80,001 - £90,000	1	1
£90,001 - £100,000	-	-
£100,001 - £110,000	-	1
£110,001 - £120,000	1	-
	7	5

##### (f) Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the trustees and the senior leadership 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 £911,000 (2023: £825,000).

#### 9 Related party transactions - Trustees' remuneration and expenses

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

J P Cowley (Principal and trustee):	
Remuneration	£110,000 - £115,000. (2023: £105,000 - £110,000)
Employers' pension contributions	£25,000 - £30,000. (2023: £20,000 - £25,000)
P Ascroft (staff trustee):	
Remuneration	£55,000 - £60,000. (2023: £50,000 - £55,000)
Employers' pension contributions	£10,000 - £15,000. (2023: £0 - £5,000)
W Gibbons (staff trustee):	
Remuneration	£15,000 - £20,000. (2023: £15,000 - £20,000)
Employers' pension contributions	£0 - £5,000. (2023: £0 - £5,000)

During the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024, no travel and subsistence expenses were reimbursed or paid directly to trustees (2023: £nil).

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out in note 27.

#### 10 Trustees' and officers' insurance

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

# Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024

#### 11 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold Land and Buildings £000	Furniture and Fixtures £000	Computer Equipment £000	Motor Vehicles £000	Total £000
<b>Cost</b>					
At 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2023	10,100	99	291	53	<b>10,543</b>
Additions	135	5	45	-	<b>185</b>
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2024	<b>10,235</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>10,728</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>					
At 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2023	618	84	219	53	<b>974</b>
Charged in period	82	15	53	-	<b>150</b>
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2024	<b>700</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>1,124</b>
<b>Net book values</b>					
At 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2023	9,482	15	72	-	<b>9,569</b>
At 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2024	<b>9,535</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,604</b>

#### 12 Debtors

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Trade debtors	4	4
VAT recoverable	15	19
Prepayments and accrued income	72	48
	<b>91</b>	<b>71</b>

#### 13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Trade creditors	104	89
Other taxation and social security	84	83
Other creditors	219	212
Accruals and deferred income	87	83
	<b>494</b>	<b>467</b>

## Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements

#### Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024

#### 14 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Loans	-	10
	<u>-</u>	<u>10</u>

Other creditors relates to a loan received to fund energy efficient projects in the academy funded via the ESFA 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 £nil.

#### 15 Funds

	Balance at 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2023 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Gains, Losses and Transfers £000	Balance at 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2024 £000
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	499	5,488	(5,301)	(136)	550
Pupil premium grant	-	112	(112)	-	-
Teacher Pay/Pension grant	-	145	(145)	-	-
Rates grant	-	21	(21)	-	-
Mainstream Additional grant	-	186	(186)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	24	(24)	-	-
Local Authority grants	-	156	(156)	-	-
Other government grants	8	-	-	-	8
Other restricted funds	-	256	(256)	-	-
Pension reserve	220	-	50	(270)	-
	<u>727</u>	<u>6,388</u>	<u>(6,151)</u>	<u>(406)</u>	<u>558</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
DfE/ESFA capital grants	-	20	-	(20)	-
Other restricted funds	-	29	-	(29)	-
Other capitalised assets	87	-	(68)	49	68
ESFA building valuation	9,482	-	(82)	136	9,536
	<u>9,569</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>(150)</u>	<u>136</u>	<u>9,604</u>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>10,296</u>	<u>6,437</u>	<u>(6,301)</u>	<u>(270)</u>	<u>10,162</u>
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<u>998</u>	<u>154</u>	<u>(103)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,049</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>11,294</u>	<u>6,591</u>	<u>(6,404)</u>	<u>(270)</u>	<u>11,211</u>

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

The General Annual Grant (GAG) must be used for the normal running costs of the Academy. 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 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024. At the period end the carry forward of GAG funding was £550,000.

# **Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust**

## **Notes to the Financial Statements**

### **Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

#### **15 Funds (continued)**

Other DfE/ESFA grants include monies received outside of GAG funding for example Covid related grants. At the year end the carry forward of these grants was £nil.

Local Authority grants represent amounts payable to the Academy predominantly from Lancashire County Council. This includes funds which relate specifically to Special Educational Needs (SEN) funding. As at the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024 these funds had been spent in full.

Other government grants represent income received from other government sources. At the year end the carry forward of this grant was £8,000.

Other restricted funds include monies from trips & non-public funds. During the period the trips & non-public funds had no excess expenditure over income.

The pension reserve represents the value of the Trust's share of the surplus/(deficit) in the Local Government Pension Scheme. Due to the effect of the asset ceiling implemented in the valuation approach this year, the scheme reports no overall deficit or surplus at the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024.

DfE/ESFA capital grants represent capital monies received during the period from the ESFA, predominantly from Devolved Formula Capital. All of these funds had been spent in the current year.

Other capitalised assets represent the value of assets purchased since conversion to academy status. These will be depreciated in line with the accounting policies set out in note 1.

The ESFA building valuation represents the value of leasehold assets as per the ESFA valuation carried out in 2016 by a RICS approved valuer. In this valuation the leasehold buildings were valued at £7,972,000. The assets were valued using a depreciated replacement cost model and are to be depreciated over a 125-year period.

Unrestricted funds represent funds generated via activities such as from Schools Direct activities, lettings, and bank interest receivable. The surplus on this fund at the year end was £1,049,000 and these funds can be used at the discretion of the Trustees to meet the charitable objectives of the Academy.

# Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024

#### 15 Funds (continued)

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

	Balance at 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2022 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Gains, Losses and Transfers £000	Balance at 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2023 £000
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	953	5,315	(4,870)	(899)	499
Pupil premium grant	-	102	(102)	-	-
Rates grant	-	19	(19)	-	-
Supplementary grants	-	150	(150)	-	-
Mainstream Additional grants	-	77	(77)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	213	112	(325)	-	-
Local Authority grants	-	84	(84)	-	-
Other government grants	8	-	-	-	8
Other restricted funds	-	288	(288)	-	-
Pension reserve	(292)	-	-	512	220
	<b>882</b>	<b>6,147</b>	<b>(5,915)</b>	<b>(387)</b>	<b>727</b>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
DfE/ESFA capital grants	-	59	-	(59)	-
Other capitalised assets	75	-	(65)	77	87
ESFA building valuation	8,682	-	(81)	881	9,482
	<b>8,757</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>(146)</b>	<b>899</b>	<b>9,569</b>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>9,639</b>	<b>6,206</b>	<b>(6,061)</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>10,296</b>
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>(78)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>998</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>10,591</b>	<b>6,330</b>	<b>(6,139)</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>11,294</b>

# Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024

#### 16 Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024 are represented by:

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted General Funds £000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £000	Total Funds £000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	9,604	9,604
Current assets	1,049	1,052	-	2,101
Current liabilities	-	(494)	-	(494)
Non-current liabilities	-	-	-	-
Pension scheme liability	-	-	-	-
<b>Total net assets</b>	1,049	558	9,604	11,211

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
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	9,569	9,569
Current assets	998	984	-	1,982
Current liabilities	-	(467)	-	(467)
Non-current liabilities	-	(10)	-	(10)
Pension scheme surplus	-	220	-	220
<b>Total net assets</b>	998	727	9,569	11,294

#### 17 Capital commitments

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Contracted for, but not provided in the financial statements	-	-

#### 18 Commitments under operating leases

##### Operating leases

At 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024 the total of the Academy Trust's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Amounts due within one year	15	14
Amounts due between one and five years	46	14
Amounts due after five years	-	-
	61	28

# Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024

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

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Net income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	187	191
Adjusted for:		
Depreciation (note 11)	150	145
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(49)	(59)
Interest receivable (note 5)	(17)	(6)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable (note 26)	(34)	(9)
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost (note 26)	(16)	9
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(20)	36
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	27	(103)
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>204</b>

### 20 Cash flows from financing activities

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Repayments of borrowing	(10)	(10)
Cash inflows from borrowing	-	-
<b>Net cash (used in) financing activities</b>	<b>(10)</b>	<b>(10)</b>

### 21 Cash flows from investing activities

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Interest receivable	17	6
Proceeds from sale of tangible fixed assets	-	2
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(185)	(960)
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA	20	59
Capital funding received from others	29	-
<b>Net cash (used in) investing activities</b>	<b>(119)</b>	<b>(893)</b>

### 22 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Cash at bank and in hand	2,010	1,911
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>2,010</b>	<b>1,911</b>

## Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements

#### Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024

#### 23 Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2023	Cash flows	Acquisition / disposal of subsidiaries	Finance leases	Other non-cash changes	At 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2024
Cash	1,911	99	-	-	-	<b>2,010</b>
Cash equivalents	-	-	-	-	-	-
Overdraft facilities repayable on demand	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>1,911</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,010</b>
Loans falling due within one year	(10)	-	-	-	-	<b>(10)</b>
Loans falling due after more than one year	(10)	10	-	-	-	-
Finance lease obligations	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>(20)</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(10)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,891</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,000</b>

#### 24 Contingent Liabilities

During the period of the funding agreement, in the event of the sale or disposal by other means of any leasehold building the Academy is required to either re-invest the proceeds or to repay the Secretary of State for Education or the Diocese the proceeds of the sale or disposal as these two bodies would jointly have an interest in the proceeds of any sale.

#### 25 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.

#### 26 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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 and of the LGPS to the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

Contributions amounting to £108,000 (2023: £90,000) were payable to the schemes at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024 and are included within creditors.

# Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024

#### 26 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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023 with the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, applying a notional investment return based on 1.7% above the rate of CPI. The key elements of the valuation outcome are:

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

The result of this valuation will be implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024. The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2028.

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £775,000 (2023: £668,000).

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.

# Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024

#### 26 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

##### Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024 was £182,000 (2023: £198,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £144,000 (2023: £161,000, and employees' contributions totalled £38,000 (2023: £37,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 20.6% 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 18<sup>th</sup> July 2013 and on 21<sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> August 2024	At 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2023
Rate of increase in salaries	4.1%	4.3%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment / inflation	2.7%	2.9%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.0%	5.4%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.6%	2.8%

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

	At 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2024	At 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2023
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	21.0	21.0
Females	23.5	23.4
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	22.2	22.2
Females	25.3	25.2

##### 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	1 year inc in life expectancy £000
Liabilities	2,889	2,656	3,013	2,952
Assets	(3,142)	(3,142)	(3,142)	(3,142)
Surplus	(253)	(486)	(129)	(190)
Projected service cost	111	97	119	114
Projected net interest	(16)	(31)	(10)	(13)

# Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024

#### 26 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 <sup>st</sup> August 2024	Fair value at 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2023
Equities	1,499	1,378
Gilts	3	11
Other bonds	3	-
Property	267	270
Cash and other liquid assets	44	17
Other	1,326	1,169
<b>Total market value of assets</b>	<b>3,142</b>	<b>2,845</b>

The actual return on scheme assets was £215,000 (2023: £60,000).

##### Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Current service cost (net of employer contributions)	38	13
Interest income	156	114
Interest expense	(140)	(123)
Benefit changes, gain/(loss) on curtailment and gain/(loss) on settlement	-	-
Admin expenses	(4)	(4)
<b>Total operating (charge)</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>0</b>

**Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**

**Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

**26 Pension and similar obligations (continued)**

**Local Government Pension Scheme (continued)**

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

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
<b>At 1<sup>st</sup> September</b>	2,625	2,855
Current service cost	106	148
Past service cost	-	-
Interest cost	140	123
Employee contributions	38	37
Actuarial loss	76	(504)
Benefits paid	(96)	(34)
Losses or gains on curtailments	-	-
Past service costs	-	-
Effect of non-routine transactions	-	-
<b>At 31<sup>st</sup> August</b>	<u>2,889</u>	<u>2,625</u>

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

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
<b>At 1<sup>st</sup> September</b>	2,845	2,563
Interest income	156	114
Return on plan assets (excluding interest income)	-	-
Assets distributed on settlements	-	-
Actuarial gain	59	8
Employer contributions	144	161
Employee contributions	38	37
Benefits paid	(96)	(34)
Administration expenses	(4)	(4)
Effect of non-routine settlements	-	-
<b>At 31<sup>st</sup> August</b>	<u>3,142</u>	<u>2,845</u>

Surplus/(deficit) recognised in the financial statements:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Scheme assets	3,142	2,845
Scheme obligations	(2,889)	(2,625)
Surplus	<u>253</u>	<u>220</u>
Restriction of scheme assets	(253)	-
<b>At 31<sup>st</sup> August</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>220</u>

# **Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust**

## **Notes to the Financial Statements**

### **Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

#### **27 Related Party Transactions**

Owing to the nature of the Academy Trust's operations and the composition of the Board of Trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the trustees have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook, including notifying the ESFA of all transactions made on or after 1<sup>st</sup> 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.