

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 07702211 (England and Wales)

**Report of the Trustees and
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st August 2025
for
The Key Educational Trust**

Hardings
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor
6 Marsh Parade
Newcastle-under-Lyme
Staffordshire
ST5 1DU

The Key Educational Trust

Contents of the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st August 2025

| | Page |
|--|-------------|
| Reference and Administrative Details | 1 to 2 |
| Report of the Trustees | 3 to 14 |
| Governance Statement | 15 to 17 |
| Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance | 18 |
| Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities | 19 |
| Report of the Independent Auditors | 20 to 22 |
| Independent Accountant's Report on Regularity | 23 |
| Statement of Financial Activities | 24 |
| Balance Sheet | 25 |
| Cash Flow Statement | 26 |
| Notes to the Cash Flow Statement | 27 |
| Notes to the Financial Statements | 28 to 47 |

The Key Educational Trust

Reference and Administrative Details for the Year Ended 31st August 2025

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Members | Revd P Kingman - Chair (Incumbent of Christ Church, Stone, Oulton and Moddershall) Mr M Davies (CECET Representative) Mrs G Latos (Chair of Directors) Mrs M Garrington-Miller - Lichfield Diocese (PCC Representative) |
| Directors | Mrs G Latos (Chair) Mrs J Hope (Vice Chair) Revd P Kingman Mr C Wright Mr A Stone Mr A James Mrs F Stagg (appointed 6 th October 2025) Mr M West (appointed 6 th October 2025) Mr M Jewels (resigned 2 nd October 2024) Mr S Walsh (resigned 7 th December 2024) Mrs E Furnival (resigned 11 th March 2025) Mrs A Graham (resigned 7 th October 2024) Mrs T Thorn (co-opted, non-director) Miss K Courtney (co-opted, non-director) |
| Senior Leadership Team (KET) | Mr C Wright Miss K Courtney Mrs A Graham Mrs M Melling Mrs T Thorn Mrs S George Mrs C Hill (resigned 31 st August 2025) Mrs S Mannering (appointed 1 st September 2025) |
| Senior Leadership Team (CCA) | Mrs T Thorn (Principal) Mrs H Dawson (Assistant Principal) Mrs L Nicholson-Ward (Assistant Principal) Mr S Curzon (Assistant Principal) Mrs C Thomas (Associate Assistant Principal) Mrs W Holdcroft (SENDCO) (resigned 30 th September 2025) Miss K Courtney (Finance Director (Trust)) |
| Senior Leadership Team (CCFS) | Mrs A Graham (Executive Headteacher) Miss H Bourne (Assistant Headteacher) Ms S Barr (Senior Teacher) |
| Senior Leadership Team (OFS) | Mrs A Graham (Executive Headteacher) Mrs M Melling (Head of School) |
| Senior Leadership Team (SMPS) | Mrs C Hill (Headteacher) (resigned 31 st August 2025) Mrs S Mannering (Head of School) (appointed 1 st September 2025) |
| Senior Leadership Team (SPPS) | Mrs S George (Headteacher) |
| Company registration no | 07702211 (England and Wales) |
| Independent auditor | Hardings Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor 6 Marsh Parade Newcastle under Lyme Staffordshire ST5 1DU |

The Key Educational Trust

**Reference and Administrative Details
for the Year Ended 31st August 2025**

Solicitors

Browne Jacobson
Mowbray House
Castle Meadow Road
Nottingham
NG2 1BJ

Bankers

Lloyds Bank Plc
25 Gresham Street
London
EC2V 7HN

The Key Educational Trust

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31st August 2025

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and the Report of the Auditors of the academy trust for the year 1st September 2024 to 31st August 2025. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Report of the Trustees and a Report of the Directors and Strategic Report under company law.

Objectives and activities

The Trust holds a firm belief that in order to achieve our goals we will work in true partnership. The key stakeholders are the Directors, staff, pupils, parents, the community and other external influences.

Through working together to an agreed set of guiding principles that will govern this partnership, we will create the foundation on which the partnership will flourish.

The principal activity of the Company is the operation of Key Educational Trust to provide education for pupils of differing abilities between the age of 4 and 13 with the emphasis being placed on raising levels of achievement. The key areas are:

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Teaching and Learning; | The curriculum, new technologies, inclusion and equality, intervention |
| Leadership and Management; | Trust organisation and design, Workforce reform and setting |
| Resources; | Financial management, deployment, school environment |
| Community; | Pupil support, mentoring, partnership of schools |

The four areas listed above are essential and integral to the raising of achievement and it is the inter-relationship between these four areas which brings about pupil progress.

Within the key areas the main priorities across the Trust are listed below:

The Key Educational Trust

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31st August 2025

Objectives and activities

Objectives, strategies and activities

Teaching and Learning

- To work with Leadership and Management to ensure that the curriculum is ambitious, coherently planned and sequenced towards cumulatively sufficient knowledge and skills for future learning and employment.
- To work with Leadership and Management to ensure that assessment is effectively embedded in schemes of work;
- To review the use of data to focus on pupil progression;
- To ensure that work is matched to the needs and abilities of pupils
- To provide training opportunities in monitoring progression, learning walks, observation and work scrutiny;
- To ensure that effective intervention strategies are in place to drive for improvement alongside the SENCO and Senior Leaders;
- To work with Leadership and Management to maintain tracking and monitoring systems to deliver planned progression targets.

Leadership and Management

- To manage each Academy's ongoing development;
- To support the Christian foundation of schools within the Trust;
- To analyse education policy changes and develop appropriate strategic planning;
- To develop effective leadership in the Academies with an emphasis on senior and middle leadership;
- To further develop leadership capacity across the Trust as well as within individual Academies;
- To review self-review and evaluation processes/systems in order that priorities be met;
- To ensure the necessary meeting infrastructures are in place linked to effective CPD

Resources:

- To work with Leadership and Management to ensure that all the necessary infrastructures are in place in order to enable progression to take place
- To work strategically with Leadership and Management to ensure that succession planning allows for continued high quality provision
- To work with Teaching and Learning to ensure priorities for effective training opportunities are resourced

Community:

- To develop collaborative working arrangements with stakeholders, this includes parents, local businesses and feeder first schools
- To develop systems to share the best practice within the Trust and across the local partnership of schools
- To evidence the Christian ethos of the Trust within the community
- To develop opportunity for other partnership schools to join the Trust

Other Strategies and Policies:

Equal Opportunities

The Trust recognises that equal opportunities should be an integral part of good practice within the workplace. The Trust aims to establish equal opportunities in all areas of its activities including creating a working environment in which the contribution and needs of all people are fully valued.

Disabled Persons

Due to the age and nature of its premises Christ Church Academy (CCA) cannot offer complete access to all curriculum areas and facilities at present. However, within these constraints, CCA has made a number of reasonable adjustments to cater for staff and students with a range of disabilities and is committed to making further improvements to provide increased access.

The Key Educational Trust

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31st August 2025

Objectives and activities

The Trust has implemented a number of detailed policies and guidelines in relation to all aspects of personnel matters including:

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Health & Safety Policy including individualised risk assessments
- Cyber Security Policy
- Pay Policy
- Performance Management Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy

Public benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities the Board of Directors have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission general guidance on public benefit.

The Board of Directors have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on Public Benefit. The key public benefit delivered by KET is the maintenance and development of the high quality education provided by the school to the young people within the local community. In doing this KET not only offers a broadly-based academic education but aims to educate the whole individual. A very wide-range of extra-curricular activities, educational trips, visits and foreign exchange programmes are offered and undertaken.

The Key Educational Trust

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31st August 2025

Strategic report Strategic priorities

The Strategic Priorities of The Key Educational Trust outline the key strategic objectives of the Trust. They share and define the vision of the trust and explain the key objectives and performance measures that demonstrate the trust's success in ensuring that all children in the MAT receive the best education and curriculum. This plan is reviewed and measured annually.

1. To develop a strong family of schools with children and their community at the heart of their mission. A Trust where everyone has ambition and aspiration and can flourish.
2. We are ambitious for all children to achieve strong outcomes and are developing robust accountability systems to improve the outcomes and experiences of our children. We are developing a curriculum that meets the needs of all and helps them prepare effectively for their next stage of education.
3. We are working together closely to consolidate and unify our practices to share good practice.
4. We are developing strong financial management processes so that every penny counts. This is supported by developing strong strategic governance at all levels of the Trust.

These objectives are supported by a more detailed strategic development plan that covers a three-year period which is reviewed annually.

Trust Activity Overview

The Trust has enjoyed another successful year with children achieving well across the board both academically and pastorally.

The growth of the Trust has progressed with the Board agreeing to support the conversion of a sponsored academy, St. Peter's CE Primary School, Caverswall. This was delayed during the course of the year and was completed in December 2024. The Trust facilitated an Assistant Headteacher secondment from Oulton First School to support St. Peter's in 2024-25.

Further growth was realised with the conversion of St Mary's CE Primary School, Mucklestone, also in December 2024. The Trust has supported recruitment of a Head of School at St Mary's, following the retirement of the Headteacher in August 2025. The new Head of School will be supported by the Executive Headteacher of Christ Church First School.

The leadership capacity in the trust was further developed with the decision to increase the CEO's commitment to full time and subsequently recruit a new Principal at Christ Church Academy. Mrs Thorn took up the role of Principal in September 2024. To support her an additional Assistant Principal was appointed.

The Trust has undertaken a Strategy and rebranding exercise which included the vision and mission for the Trust, the Logo and school websites. This process was completed in the Autumn term 2024.

The Trust has continued to develop its core offer around support for Finance, policy development and curriculum coherence. Central policies include Safeguarding and KCSIE 2024, Human Resources, Pupil Attendance, Compliments and Complaints, Performance Management and Open Morning. All first and primary schools have the same approach to teaching mathematics through 'White Rose' and Phonics 'Little Wandle' with the exception of St Peter's which uses the FFT SFA phonics programme.

The Trust worked over the year with the Diocese of Lichfield about potential future partnerships as well as the Department for Education.

The Confederation of School Trust's (CST) policy document, 'What is a Strong Trust' is used to evaluate the Trust's effectiveness and covers five key pillars of educational provision:

1. Expert Governance
2. Efficiency and effectiveness of operational structures
3. Quality of Education
4. Public benefit and civic duty
5. Workforce resilience and wellbeing

The Key Educational Trust

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31st August 2025

Financial constraints, recovery and sustainability

The academies within the Trust have taken decisive action over the year to address the challenging national financial climate. Through a review of income and expenditure, academies secured budget savings of approximately £340k (5%) for the 2025/26 academic year, easing the immediate pressure on Trust reserves.

To ensure long-term sustainability, the Board has set a further target for all academies to deliver an additional 5% of recurrent savings from September 2026. Meeting this target is essential to achieving breakeven and protecting the Trust's financial resilience.

A structured financial recovery process has been established to support this work, providing clear guidance and oversight to ensure efficiency measures are achievable and aligned with Trust priorities.

Performance data for Trust schools are detailed below.

Each school in the Trust produces an annual development plan, detailing actions, timescales and intended impact required to deliver their whole school priorities.

Four schools within the KET enjoy an OFSTED rating of Good and at least Good with SIAMS.

One school is rated OFSTED Requires Improvement and SIAMS Good.

- Christ Church Academy: OFSTED Good 27/01/22 / SIAMS Excellent 16/01/20
- Christ Church First School: OFSTED Good 26/11/24 / SIAMS Good 27/06/19
- Oulton First School: OFSTED Good 15/10/24 / SIAMS J1 26/11/24
- St. Mary's CE Primary School: OFSTED Good 19/11/19 / SIAMS Outstanding 05/07/18
- St. Peter's CE Primary School: OFSTED RI 29/03/22 / SIAMS Good 08/05/23

Below is the data for 2025 and the two preceding years when assessments took place.

The Key Educational Trust

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31st August 2025

EYFS/KS1 2025 Data

| CCFS | Sch 2023 | Sch 2024 | Sch 2025 | National 2025 | OFS | Sch 2023 | Sch 2024 | Sch 2025 | National 2025 | SMPS | Sch 2023 | Sch 2024 | Sch 2025 | National 2025 |
|---------------|----------|----------|----------|---------------|---------------|----------|----------|----------|---------------|---------------|----------|----------|----------|---------------|
| EYFS GLD | 64 | 63 | 75 | 68.6 | EYFS GLD | 81.8 | 80 | 93 | 68.6 | EYFS GLD | 75 | 80 | 20 | 68.6 |
| Y1 Phonics | 75 | 100 | 99.3 | 81 | Y1 Phonics | 86.7 | 76.9 | 93 | 80.4 | Y1 Phonics | 28 | 80 | 75 | 80.4 |
| Y2 Phonics | 80* | 87 | n/a | 91 | Y2 Phonics | | 50 | 67 | 91 | Y2 Phonics | 77 | 60 | 0 | 91 |
| KS1 Reading | 60 | 68 | 70 | 71 | KS1 Reading | 78.6 | 87.5 | 85 | 71 | KS1 Reading | 66 | 60 | 80 | 71 |
| Greater depth | 0 | 0 | 9 | 18.9 | Greater depth | 14.3 | 12.5 | 7 | 18.9 | Greater depth | 11 | 0 | 0 | 18.9 |
| KS1 Writing | 56 | 75 | 78 | 63.8 | KS1 Writing | 71.4 | 81.3 | 85 | 63.8 | KS1 Writing | 55 | 66 | 80 | 63.8 |
| Greater depth | 0 | 21 | 26 | 9 | Greater depth | 14.3 | 12.5 | 0 | 9 | Greater depth | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| KS1 Maths | 76 | 46 | 61 | 72.5 | KS1 Maths | 78.6 | 75 | 85 | 72.5 | KS1 Maths | 66 | 60 | 80 | 72.5 |
| Greater depth | 12 | 0 | 17 | 16.8 | Greater depth | 7.1 | 12.5 | 7 | 16.8 | Greater depth | 0 | 0 | 0 | 16.8 |
| KS1 Science | 72 | | 100 | 83.3 | KS1 Science | | | 100 | 83.3 | KS1 Science | | | 80 | 83.3 |
| KS1 RWM | 56.0 | 35.7 | 26 | 58.6 | KS1 RWM | 71.4 | 68.8 | 85 | 58.6 | KS1 RWM | 55 | 60 | 80 | 58.6 |
| Greater depth | 0 | | 4 | 6.2 | Greater depth | 7.1 | | 0 | 6.2 | Greater depth | | | 0 | 6.2 |
| MTC (mean av) | | | 19.3 | 21.1 | MTC (mean av) | | | 18 | 21.1 | MTC (mean av) | | | 21.6 | 21.1 |
| Scored 25 | | | | 38.2 | | | | | 38.2 | | | | | 38.2 |

| SPPS | Sch 2023 | Sch 2024 | Sch 2025 | National 2025 |
|---------------|----------|----------|----------|---------------|
| EYFS GLD | 59 | 61 | 77 | 68.6 |
| Y1 Phonics | 68 | 64.7 | 72 | 80.4 |
| Y2 Phonics | 67 | 83 | 100 | 91 |
| KS1 Reading | 71 | 80 | 86 | 71 |
| Greater depth | 11 | 15 | 29 | 18.9 |
| KS1 Writing | 64 | 70 | 85 | 63.8 |
| Greater depth | 4 | 10 | 14 | 9 |
| KS1 Maths | 68 | 70 | 78 | 72.5 |
| Greater depth | 7 | 10 | 14 | 16.8 |
| KS1 Science | | | | 83.3 |
| KS1 RWM | 46 | 60 | 78 | 58.6 |
| Greater depth | 0 | 5 | 7 | 6.2 |
| MTC (mean av) | | | | 21.1 |
| Scored 25 | | | | 38.2 |

Attainment scores reported – no scores relating to progress from KS1 due to Covid. Progress scores will be included in the 2026 data.

The Key Educational Trust

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31st August 2025

KS2 2025 Data

Attainment scores reported – no scores relating to progress from KS1 due to Covid. Progress scores will be included in the 2026 data.

| CCA KS2 SATs | Sch 2023 | Sch 2024 | Sch 2025 | National 2025 | SMPS KS2 SATs | Sch 2023 | Sch 2024 | Sch 2025 | National 2025 |
|------------------------|----------|----------|----------|---------------|---------------|----------|----------|----------|---------------|
| Reading | 65 | 75 | 75 | 75 | Reading | 77 | 100 | 75 | 75 |
| Greater depth | 10 | 30 | 35 | 32.8 | Greater depth | 11 | 25 | 0 | 32.8 |
| Writing TA | 71 | 74 | 73 | 72 | Writing TA | 77 | 100 | 63 | 72 |
| Greater depth | 5 | 16 | 21 | 12.2 | Greater depth | 0 | 25 | 0 | 12.2 |
| GPS | 54 | 71 | 74 | 73 | GPS | 77 | 100 | 88 | 73 |
| Greater depth | 10 | 24 | 23 | 28.8 | Greater depth | 11 | 25 | 13 | 28.8 |
| Maths | 68 | 78 | 70 | 74 | Maths | 55 | 75 | 50 | 74 |
| Greater depth | 10 | 18 | 21 | 25.4 | Greater depth | 0 | 25 | 0 | 25.4 |
| RWM | 50 | 65 | 58 | 61.8 | RWM | 33 | 75 | 50 | 61.8 |
| Greater depth | 1 | 6 | 71 | 8 | Greater depth | 0 | 25 | 0 | 8 |
| Science | 88 | 88 | | 82 | Science | 88 | | | 82 |
| SPPS KS2 SATs 16 ps | Sch 2023 | Sch 2024 | Sch 2025 | National 2025 | | | | | |
| Reading | 71 | 73 | 69 | 75 | | | | | |
| Greater depth | 11 | 27 | 25 | 32.8 | | | | | |
| Writing TA | 58 | 73 | 69 | 72 | | | | | |
| Greater depth | 0 | 9 | 12 | 12.2 | | | | | |
| GPS | 67 | 82 | 75 | 73 | | | | | |
| Greater depth | 21 | 36 | 31 | 28.8 | | | | | |
| Maths | 71 | 55 | 75 | 74 | | | | | |
| Greater depth | 25 | 9 | 25 | 25.4 | | | | | |
| RWM | | 46 | 50 | 61.8 | | | | | |
| Greater depth | | 0 | 12 | 8 | | | | | |
| Science | | | | 82 | | | | | |

English Attainment - All:

| Cohort | Current Year group | Attainment (Average Scaled Scores) | | | | |
|--------|--------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | Baseline | End of year 5 | End of Year 6 | End of Year 7 | End of Year 8 |
| 2025 | 5 | 98.6 | | | | |
| 2024 | 6 | 101.6 | 102.2 | | | |
| 2023 | 7 | 101.9 | 101.1 | 100.9 | | |
| 2022 | 8 | 100.1 | 100.9 | 101.8 | 101.2 | |
| 2021 | 9 | 98.0 | 100.0 | 98.2 | 100.8 | 98.9 |
| 2020 | 10 | 98.3 | 101.6 | 101.6 | 102.8 | 102.2 |
| 2019 | 11 | 100.2 | 100.1 | 98.9 | 105.1 | 102.6 |

Maths Attainment - All:

| Cohort | Current Year group | Attainment (Average Scaled Scores) | | | | |
|--------|--------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | Baseline | End of year 5 | End of Year 6 | End of Year 7 | End of Year 8 |
| 2025 | 5 | 94.7 | | | | |
| 2024 | 6 | 99.1 | 103.5 | | | |
| 2023 | 7 | 98.1 | 101.1 | 99.6 | | |
| 2022 | 8 | 96.9 | 101.2 | 99.0 | 103.1 | |
| 2021 | 9 | 91.5 | 98.2 | 94.6 | 103.6 | 106.3 |
| 2020 | 10 | 90.7 | 96.0 | 95.8 | 103.2 | 107.0 |
| 2019 | 11 | 95.0 | 96.1 | 92.2 | 102.1 | 104.8 |

The Key Educational Trust

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31st August 2025

In order to have benchmark data which can be compared to other schools nationally, CCA uses GL Assessments in both English and Maths.

A baseline assessment is taken at the start of Year 5 and then at the end of each Academic Year. The standardised national score is 100.

To ensure that standards are maintained, the Trust Academies operate a policy of lesson visits/observations, intervention groups, moderation of assessments, book and planning trawls, pupil voice interviews and learning walks. Data tracking is carried out regularly to facilitate early intervention.

Key performance indicators

The following key performance indicators are considered when reviewing performance:

EYFS

Percentage of EYFS pupils achieving a Good Level of Development (GLD)

Key Stage 1

Percentage of Y1 pupils achieving expected standard in Phonics

Percentage of Y2 pupils achieving expected standard in Phonics in retest

Percentage of Y2 pupils achieving expected standard in Reading, Writing, Maths and Science

Key Stage 2

Percentage of pupils achieving scaled score of 100+

Percentage of pupils achieving scaled score of 100+ in Reading, Writing and Maths

Percentage of pupils making expected+ progress from KS1 to KS2 - IDSR

Financial review

The majority of the Trust's income in the year was its General Annual Grant (GAG), the use of which is restricted to use in the furtherance of the objects of the Trust. The GAG received during the period covered by this report and the associated expenditure is shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Before accounting for the actuarial losses on the LGPS, total income for the Trust during the year was £6,532,835 (2024 - £5,037,470) and total expenditure was £6,892,382 (2024 - £5,083,961), giving rise to a deficit of £359,547 (2024 - £46,491). This includes LGPS costs of £375,000 (2024: £60,000), capital grants of £70,272 (2024 - £179,418) and depreciation of £128,851 (2024 - £140,735). Once these have been discounted, the Trust has made an operating surplus of £74,032

At the year end the Trust had cash reserves of £1,313,849 (2024 - £1,232,366).

The Trust's restricted funds at the year-end were £3,360,508 (2024 - £3,624,928) and its unrestricted funds were £895,077 (2024 - £615,204).

Strategic report

Reserves policy

The level of reserves held considers the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match them with commitments, including future capital projects and the need to maintain sufficient reserves to cover any unexpected urgent expenditure requirements.

The Directors have identified a number of priorities for capital projects to improve the Trust's facilities, including the ongoing need to replace a substantial proportion of the Trust's ICT infrastructure each year. The level of reserves will be kept under review by the Board of Directors.

Investment policy

The Trust holds a number of secure cash investments and a small investment in Church of England shares. The Board of Directors has adopted a low risk strategy in respect of these funds, their primary concern being to maintain adequate funds in the current account, to cover all anticipated requirements. During the year to 31st August 2025 the Trust has invested excess cash reserves in various interest earning savings accounts.

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Board of Directors has a reasonable expectation that the five Academies have

The Key Educational Trust

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31st August 2025

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.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The Directors confirm that the major risks to which the Trust is exposed have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate those risks. The principal risks and uncertainties facing the Trust are as follows:

Risk Description Action

- School self-evaluation updated, new Improvement Plan developed in conjunction with staff and Directors, review of procedures
- Disruption of pupils' education as a result of the challenging attendance since the Covid-19 pandemic. Take reasonable steps to support the highest level of attendance following all DfE guidelines

Financial uncertainties due to:

- Lack of information more than a year in advance
- Changes in funding formula
- Unfunded staff pay rises
- Cost pressures (e.g. fuel, LGPS and NI contributions, incremental drift)
- Falling admissions due to falling numbers of school age children in the catchment area leading to a reduced per pupil funding

Contribute to LA consultation process about funding proposals, raise concerns with DfE, plan according to current information (4 or 5 form entry, demographics, salary modellers), recruitment to specified pay scales. The Trust has adopted vacancy control process and set savings targets across the Trust as a financial strategy to mitigate cost pressures and maintain financial sustainability.

Where significant financial risk still remains, the Directors have ensured that they have in place adequate insurance cover. The Trust has an effective system of internal controls as detailed below.

Statement on the system of internal financial controls

As Directors, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that the 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 mis-statement or loss.

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

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 Trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in the Trust for the year ended 31 August 2025 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to Handle Risk

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

The Key Educational Trust

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31st August 2025

The Risk and Control Framework

The Trust's system of internal financial controls 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 Directors;
- regular reviews by the Finance 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 performances;
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- identification and management of risks.

The Board of Directors have considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has retained a service level agreement with School Business Management Services (SBM). The Key Educational Trust used the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee to carry out the functions of an audit committee. On a monthly and termly basis, the CEO and Trust Business Manager update the Board of Directors on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Directors' financial responsibilities. The Directors are satisfied that the responsibilities are delivered in line with the ESFA's requirements. No material control issues have been identified.

Review of Effectiveness

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

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

The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control.

Constitution

The KET 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 Trust.

The Directors form the Trust Board of the KET and the Chair and Vice Chair are also the Directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law. The Charitable Company is known as The Key Educational Trust (company number 07702211).

Details of the directors who served during the year, and to the date these accounts are approved, are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

Members' liability

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

Directors' indemnities

Through the year, the Directors 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 12 to the Financial Statements, the limit of this indemnity is £10,000,000.

The Key Educational Trust

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31st August 2025

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of governors for local governing committees

The processes for appointing or electing the various types of Governor at the KET are as follows:

- 1) Foundation Governors – The Trustees/Directors of The Key Educational Trust have fully adopted the Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education Policy on Foundation Governors. This sets out the qualifications required and pre-appointment checks. It also details the appointment procedure together with suspension and/or removal procedures. This document is available upon request from the school.
- 2) Parent Governors – Parents, including carers, of registered pupils at the school are eligible to stand as individuals for election as a Parent Governor. They are elected by other parents at the school as individuals who are representative of the parental body. Suitable procedures have been put in place for the conduct of Parent Governor elections.
- 3) Staff Governors – Both teaching and support staff paid to work at the Trust are eligible for staff governorship. Suitable procedures have been put in place for the conduct of Staff Governor elections.
- 4) Local Authority Governors – The Local Authority Governor was appointed by the Local Authority when the school was a maintained school and the Governing Body elected to keep the position upon conversion.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Trustees/Directors and Governors

Following their appointment/election all new postholders to receive an introduction to their role from the Chair of Governors and CEO/Principal/Headteacher. This introduction includes tours of the school's sites and the opportunity to meet other members of the Senior Management Team.

The Board of Directors at the KET are committed to providing adequate opportunities for Directors/Governors to undertake and receive suitable training so as to enable them to undertake their role more effectively.

To this end the Board of Directors maintains a Service Level Agreement with the Entrust Governor Services Department. This agreement allows for any or all of the members of the Governing bodies to attend any of the training courses provided.

All new Directors/Governors are actively encouraged to take advantage of this agreement so as to gain a better understanding of the role and responsibilities of being a trust director/school Governor. Additionally, Directors/Governors with specific roles within the Board of Directors/Local Governing Committees are strongly encouraged to undertake specific training.

The training and induction provided for new Directors and Governors will depend upon their existing experience. Specific training sessions are arranged for Directors/Governors as and when required.

Organisational structure

The KET is supported of the Board of Directors and the eight members (as detailed on page 1), including the Chair of the Board of Directors.

In accordance with the Articles of Association, the KET has adopted revised Terms of Reference. There have been five full Board of Directors meetings in this period, and seven committee meetings. There was also an AGM on 2nd December 2024.

The Key Educational Trust

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31st August 2025

During the first Board of Directors meeting and the first KET Board Meeting of the period (October 2024), the Chair and Vice-Chair were elected, together with Directors holding specific responsibilities. The full Board of Directors has eight members. Further to this there are three committees, each with its individual focus on specific areas of the Trust. Members of the senior leadership teams regularly attend meetings in order to provide key updates to Directors. There is a minimum of three Directors on each of these committees.

The KET had the following Board members (October 2025):

- a. 10 Board members appointed by the Trust Members which includes:
- b. 7 skill-based Directors;
- c. 2 co-opted;
- d. The CEO

The Directors who were in office at the date of the annual report, and those who served through the period are shown on page 1.

The day to day management of the charity is delegated to the Senior Leadership Teams, as shown on page 1.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

For teaching staff, the Academy adopts the Department for Education's published 'School Teacher's Pay and Conditions Document 2025' which offers guidance on school teacher's pay and conditions. For support staff the Academy adopts the National Joint Council's Pay Scales.

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

Connected Organisations, including Related Party Relationships

The School Fund of Christ Church Academy, Christ Church First School and Oulton First School has been aggregated into these accounts as the funds are under the control of the Trust. The income and expenditure of the School Fund are shown in the Trust's restricted and unrestricted general funds, as appropriate. The School Funds of St Mary's Primary and St Peter's Primary currently remain under the control of the respective schools.

Christ Church Academy is party to a 125-year lease for the property and all related surroundings, the landlords being Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education and Staffordshire County Council. Oulton First School, Christ Church First School, St. Mary's Primary School and St. Peter's Primary School are party to 125-year licenses.

Fundraising

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

Plans for future periods

In accordance with the aims of The Key Educational Trust, it will continue to drive improvements in the levels of performance of its pupils at all levels. It will continue its efforts to ensure that all pupils are well prepared for the next stage of their education. The Trust will continue to develop its facilities for its pupils and staff, and is currently considering a number of potential projects to improve the premises.

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

During the year ended 31 August 2025, the Trust did not hold any funds as a custodian trustee on behalf of any other charitable organisation

Auditors

The auditors, Hardings, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Report of the trustees, incorporating a strategic report, approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 1st December 2025 and signed on the board's behalf by:



Mrs J Hope - Trustee

The Key Educational Trust

Governance Statement for the Year Ended 31st August 2025

Scope of responsibility

As trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that The Key Educational 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 of loss.

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

The board of trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Accounting Officer, as accounting officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between The Key Educational 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.

The Key Educational Trust

Governance Statement for the Year Ended 31st August 2025

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Report of the Trustees and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The board of trustees has formally met 5 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of trustees was as follows:

| Director | Meetings attended | Out of a possible |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| Mrs G Latos (Chair of Directors) | 3 | 5 |
| Mrs J Hope (Vice Chair of Directors) | 5 | 5 |
| Revd P Kingman | 5 | 5 |
| Mr C Wright (CEO) | 5 | 5 |
| Mr A Stone | 3 | 5 |
| Mr A James | 4 | 5 |
| Mr S Walsh (resigned 7 th December 2024) | 1 | 2 |
| Mrs E Furnival (resigned 11 th March 2025) | 3 | 3 |
| Mrs A Graham (resigned 7 th October 2024) | 0 | 1 |
| Mrs T Thorn (co-opted, non-director) | 2 | 5 |
| Miss K Courtney (co-opted, non-director) | 5 | 5 |

KET Finance Committee Meetings

The KET Finance Audit & Risk Committee is a sub-committee of the Trust Board where finance, audit and risk is reviewed. The committee is responsible for reviewing pay and the annual budgets before proposing approval by the Trust Board. Attendance at the KET Committee meetings throughout the year was as follows:

| Director | Meetings attended | Out of a possible |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| Mr A James (Chair) | 6 | 6 |
| Mrs J Hope | 5 | 6 |
| Mr A Stone | 5 | 6 |
| Mrs E Furnival (resigned 11 th March 2025) | 2 | 3 |
| Mr C Wright | 6 | 6 |
| Miss K Courtney | 6 | 6 |

Review of value for money

As accounting officer, the Accounting Officer 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 educational and wider societal outcomes, as well as estates safety and management, achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

The accounting officer considers how the academy trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the board of trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data or by using a framework where appropriate. The accounting officer for the academy trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by improving educational outcomes; financial governance and oversight; procurement; income generation; reviewing controls; managing risk; future plans and lessons learned.

The Key Educational Trust

Governance Statement for the Year Ended 31st August 2025

The risk and control framework

The Trust's system of internal financial controls 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 Directors;
- regular reviews by the Finance 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 performances;
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- identification and management of risks

The Board of Directors have considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has retained a service level agreement with School Business Management Services. The Key Educational Trust has a Risk & Audit Committee that determines the areas of internal audit and holds the Trust to account on audit actions and risk management. The Risk & Audit Committee meeting twice termly to review the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Directors' financial responsibilities. The Directors are satisfied that the Risk & Audit Committee's function has been delivered in line with the DfE's requirements. No material control issues have been identified.

Review of effectiveness

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

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

The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by internal audit.

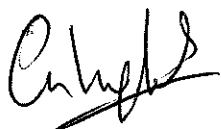
Conclusion

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 1st December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs J Hope - Trustee



Mr C M Wright - Accounting Officer

The Key Educational Trust

Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance for the Year Ended 31st August 2025

As accounting officer of The Key Educational Trust, I confirm that I have had due regard to the framework of authorities governing regularity, propriety and compliance, including the trust's funding agreement with DfE, and the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook, including responsibilities for estates safety and management. I have also considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust board of trustees and DfE of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management.

I confirm that I and the board of trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds by the academy trust, or material non-compliance with the framework of authorities.

I confirm that no instances of material irregularity, impropriety or non-compliance have been discovered to date. If any instances are identified after the date of this statement, these will be notified to the board of trustees and DfE.



Mr C M Wright - Accounting Officer

1st December 2025

The Key Educational Trust

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities for the Year Ended 31st August 2025

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

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are 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 auditors are aware of that information.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 1st December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs J Hope - Trustee

Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of The Key Educational Trust

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Key Educational Trust (the 'academy trust') for the year ended 31st August 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and 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, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and the Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by the Department for Education (DfE).

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the 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 trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

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 Report of the Trustees for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of The Key Educational Trust

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the academy trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Report of the Trustees.

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company 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.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

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

- enquiring of management including obtaining and reviewing policies and procedures relating to:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether there were any instances of
 - non-compliance;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have any knowledge of any actual,
 - suspected or alleged fraud;
 - reviewing the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws
 - and regulations.
- discussions among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.
-

obtaining an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework in which the Trust operates, focusing on those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of the Trust.

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

**Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of
The Key Educational Trust**

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 auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the academy trust and the academy trust's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



T R McNeal (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Hardings
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor
6 Marsh Parade
Newcastle-under-Lyme
Staffordshire
ST5 1DU

1st December 2025

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to The Key Educational Trust and the Secretary of State for Education

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

This report is made solely to The Key Educational Trust and the Secretary of State for Education in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to The Key Educational Trust and the Secretary of State for Education those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than The Key Educational Trust and the Secretary of State for Education, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the accounting officer of The Key Educational Trust and the reporting accountant

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

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

Approach

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

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

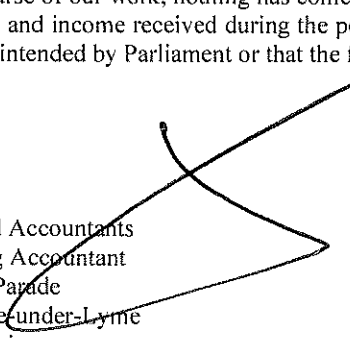
A limited assurance engagement is more limited in scope than a reasonable assurance engagement and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in a reasonable assurance engagement. Accordingly, we do not express a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

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

Conclusion

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

Hardings
Chartered Accountants
Reporting Accountant
6 Marsh Parade
Newcastle-under-Lyme
Staffordshire
ST5 1DU



1st December 2025

The Key Educational Trust

**Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31st August 2025**

| | | | | 31/8/25 | 31/8/24 |
|--|-------|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | Unrestricted | Restricted | | |
| | Notes | fund | Fixed | Total | Total |
| | | £ | Asset | funds | funds |
| | | £ | fund | £ | £ |
| Income and endowments from | | | | | |
| Donations and capital grants | 2 | - | 55,164 | 128,001 | 275,298 |
| Transfer from Local Authority on conversion | | 155,207 | 15,108 | (134,000) | - |
| Charitable activities | | | | | |
| Funding for the academy's educational operations | 3 | 20,540 | - | 6,176,091 | 4,694,916 |
| Other trading activities | 4 | 61,384 | - | 12,598 | 37,966 |
| Investment income | 5 | 42,742 | - | - | 29,290 |
| Total | | <u>279,873</u> | <u>70,272</u> | <u>6,182,690</u> | <u>5,037,470</u> |
| Expenditure on | | | | | |
| Raising funds | 7 | - | - | 153,432 | 123,899 |
| Charitable activities | | | | | |
| Academy's educational operations | 8 | - | 128,851 | 6,610,099 | 4,960,062 |
| Total | | <u>-</u> | <u>128,851</u> | <u>6,763,531</u> | <u>5,083,961</u> |
| NET | | | | | |
| INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) | | 279,873 | (58,579) | (580,841) | (46,491) |
| Transfers between funds | 18 | - | 147,840 | (147,840) | - |
| Other recognised gains/(losses) | | | | | |
| Actuarial gains on defined benefit schemes | | - | - | 375,000 | 193,000 |
| Net movement in funds | | 279,873 | 89,261 | (353,681) | 146,509 |
| Reconciliation of funds | | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward | | 615,204 | 3,143,505 | 4,240,132 | 4,093,623 |
| Total funds carried forward | | <u>895,077</u> | <u>3,232,766</u> | <u>4,255,585</u> | <u>4,240,132</u> |

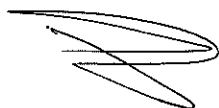
The notes form part of these financial statements

The Key Educational Trust

**Balance Sheet
31st August 2025**

| | | | | 31/8/25 | 31/8/24 |
|--|-------|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | Unrestricted | Restricted | | |
| | Notes | fund | Fixed | Total | Total |
| | | £ | Asset | funds | funds |
| | | | fund | £ | £ |
| Fixed assets | | | | | |
| Tangible assets | 14 | - | 3,353,945 | 3,353,945 | 3,282,505 |
| Current assets | | | | | |
| Debtors | 15 | - | - | 447,524 | 225,706 |
| Cash at bank | | <u>895,076</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>1,313,849</u> | <u>1,232,366</u> |
| | | 895,076 | - | 1,761,373 | 1,458,072 |
| Creditors | | | | | |
| Amounts falling due within one year | 16 | - | (121,179) | (738,554) | (500,445) |
| | | <u>895,076</u> | <u>(121,179)</u> | <u>901,640</u> | <u>957,627</u> |
| Net current assets | | | | | |
| | | <u>895,076</u> | <u>(121,179)</u> | <u>127,743</u> | <u>127,743</u> |
| Total assets less current liabilities | | | | | |
| | | <u>895,076</u> | <u>3,232,766</u> | <u>4,255,585</u> | <u>4,240,132</u> |
| NET ASSETS | | | | | |
| | | <u>895,076</u> | <u>3,232,766</u> | <u>4,255,585</u> | <u>4,240,132</u> |
| Funds | 18 | | | | |
| Restricted funds: | | | | | |
| Fixed asset fund | | | | 3,232,766 | 3,143,505 |
| Restricted income fund | | | | <u>127,743</u> | <u>481,423</u> |
| | | | | 3,360,509 | 3,624,928 |
| Unrestricted income fund | | | | <u>895,076</u> | <u>615,204</u> |
| Total funds | | | | <u>4,255,585</u> | <u>4,240,132</u> |

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 1st December 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:



Mrs J Hope - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

The Key Educational Trust

**Cash Flow Statement
for the Year Ended 31st August 2025**

| | Notes | 31/8/25 £ | 31/8/24 £ |
|---|-------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Cash flows from operating activities | | | |
| Cash generated from operations | 1 | <u>13,554</u> | <u>(279,961)</u> |
| Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities | | <u>13,554</u> | <u>(279,961)</u> |
| Cash flows from investing activities | | | |
| Purchase of tangible fixed assets | | (185,184) | (331,830) |
| Capital grants from DfE/EFA | | 55,163 | 179,418 |
| Interest received | | <u>42,742</u> | <u>29,290</u> |
| Net cash used in investing activities | | <u>(87,279)</u> | <u>(123,122)</u> |
| Cash transferred on conversion to an academy | | <u>155,208</u> | <u>-</u> |
| Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period | | 81,483 | (403,083) |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period | | <u>1,232,366</u> | <u>1,635,449</u> |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period | | <u><u>1,313,849</u></u> | <u><u>1,232,366</u></u> |

The notes form part of these financial statements

The Key Educational Trust

Notes to the Cash Flow Statement for the Year Ended 31st August 2025

1. Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities

| | 31/8/25 | 31/8/24 |
|--|----------------------|-------------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Net expenditure for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities) | (359,547) | (46,491) |
| Adjustments for: | | |
| Depreciation charges | 128,851 | 140,735 |
| Capital grants from DfE | (55,163) | (179,418) |
| Transfer from Local Authority on conversion | (36,315) | - |
| Interest received | (42,742) | (29,290) |
| (Increase)/decrease in debtors | (221,818) | 3,265 |
| Increase/(decrease) in creditors | 359,288 | (228,762) |
| Difference between pension charge and cash contributions | <u>241,000</u> | <u>60,000</u> |
| Net cash provided by/(used in) operations | <u>13,554</u> | <u>(279,961)</u> |

2. Analysis of changes in net funds

| | At 1.9.24 | Cash flow | At 31.8.25 |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Net cash | | | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | <u>1,232,366</u> | <u>81,483</u> | <u>1,313,849</u> |
| | <u>1,232,366</u> | <u>81,483</u> | <u>1,313,849</u> |
| Total | <u>1,232,366</u> | <u>81,483</u> | <u>1,313,849</u> |

The notes form part of these financial statements

The Key Educational Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st August 2025

1. Accounting policies

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the academy trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by the DfE, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The Key Educational Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Going concern

The directors assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate, i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charitable company to continue as a going concern. The directors make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the accounts 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 accounts.

Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

The academy trust makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount 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 19, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2025. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the academy trust has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Grants

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

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the period is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

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

The Key Educational Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31st August 2025

1. Accounting policies - continued

Sponsorship income

Sponsorship income provided to the academy trust which amounts to a donation is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which it is receivable (where there are no performance-related conditions), where it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Donations

Donations are recognised on a receivable basis (where there are no performance related conditions), where it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Other income

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

Donated goods, facilities and services

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

Donated fixed assets

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

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the academy trust to that expenditure, 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 accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Raising funds

Raising funds 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

Costs of charitable activities are 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.

Tangible fixed assets

Assets costing £2,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the balance sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. Where there are specific conditions attached to the funding that require the continued use of the asset, the related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities and carried forward in the balance sheet. Depreciation on the relevant assets is charged directly to the restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

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

The Key Educational Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31st August 2025

1. Accounting policies - continued

Tangible fixed assets

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Leasehold buildings | 2% straight line |
| Computer equipment | 33% straight line |
| Furniture and equipment | 15% reducing balance |

Valuation of occupied property

The property known as Christ Church Academy at Old Road, Stone, ST15 8JD is occupied under a 125 year lease, commencing 1 August 2011. The landlords are The Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education and Staffordshire County Council. The property was valued independently upon conversion and was treated as a restricted fixed asset fund donation for the year and included as fixed asset additions on the Balance Sheet. The property has since been depreciated in accordance with the Trust's accounting policy.

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.

Financial instruments

The academy trust only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS102. The financial assets and financial liabilities of the academy trust and their measurement basis are as follows.

Financial assets

Trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

Financial liabilities

Trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition.

Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

Taxation

The academy trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

Accordingly, the academy trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Part 11, Chapter 3 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

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 directors.

Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by finders 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.

The Key Educational Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31st August 2025

1. Accounting policies - continued

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

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

2. Donations and capital grants

| | 31/8/25 | 31/8/24 |
|-----------|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Donations | 128,002 | 95,880 |
| Grants | <u>55,163</u> | <u>179,418</u> |
| | <u>183,165</u> | <u>275,298</u> |

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

| | 31/8/25 | 31/8/24 |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Other DfE/EFSA grants | <u>55,163</u> | <u>179,418</u> |

The Key Educational Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31st August 2025

3. Funding for the academy trust's educational operations

| | Unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | 31/8/25 Total funds £ | 31/8/24 Total funds £ |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| DfE/ESFA grants | | | | |
| General Annual Grant(GAG) | - | 4,718,479 | 4,718,479 | 3,778,611 |
| Other DfE/EFSA grants | - | 827,659 | 827,659 | 618,065 |
| | - | 5,546,138 | 5,546,138 | 4,396,676 |
| Other Government grants | | | | |
| Local Authority | - | 181,583 | 181,583 | 165,150 |
| Other incoming resources | 20,541 | 448,370 | 468,910 | 133,090 |
| | 20,541 | 629,953 | 650,493 | 298,240 |
| | 20,541 | 6,176,090 | 6,196,631 | 4,694,916 |

Other DfE/ESFA grants is made up of the following:

| | 31/8/25 £ | 31/8/24 £ |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Pupil premium | 239,776 | 251,450 |
| Core Schools Budget Grant | 170,386 | - |
| National Insurance Grant | 36,101 | - |
| Supplementary grant | - | 4,020 |
| Mainstream schools additional grant | - | 133,519 |
| Rates relief | - | 8,165 |
| PE grant | 77,262 | 52,340 |
| Teachers Pay & Pension Grant | 180,804 | 99,218 |
| Universal Infant Free School Meals | 123,330 | 39,230 |
| Conversion Grant | - | 26,866 |
| Other | - | 3,257 |
| | 827,659 | 618,065 |

4. Other trading activities

| | 31/8/25 £ | 31/8/24 £ |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Music tuition | 36,271 | 23,360 |
| Hire of facilities | 25,113 | 7,500 |
| Catering income | 12,598 | 7,106 |
| | 73,982 | 37,966 |

The Key Educational Trust

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st August 2025**

5. Investment income

| | 31/8/25 | 31/8/24 |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Deposit account interest | <u>42,742</u> | <u>29,290</u> |

6. Expenditure

| | | | 31/8/25 | 31/8/24 |
|--|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| | Staff costs | Non-pay expenditure | | |
| | £ | Premises | Other costs | Total |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Raising funds | | | | |
| Costs of fundraising | | | | |
| Direct costs | - | - | 151,496 | 121,588 |
| Costs incurred by trading for a fundraising purpose | | | | |
| Direct costs | - | - | 1,936 | 2,311 |
| Charitable activities | | | | |
| Academy's educational operations | | | | |
| Direct costs | 4,582,306 | - | 241,486 | 3,670,940 |
| Allocated support costs | <u>543,892</u> | <u>849,399</u> | <u>521,867</u> | <u>1,289,122</u> |
| | <u>5,126,198</u> | <u>849,399</u> | <u>916,785</u> | <u>5,083,961</u> |

Net income/(expenditure) for the year is stated after charging/(crediting):

| | 31/8/25 | 31/8/24 |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Fees payable to auditor for audit services | 12,500 | 9,500 |
| Operating lease rentals | 17,081 | 30,259 |
| Depreciation of tangible fixed assets | 128,852 | 136,987 |
| Net interest on defined benefit pension liability | <u>3,000</u> | <u>6,000</u> |

7. Raising funds

Costs of fundraising

| | 31/8/25 | 31/8/24 |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Educational visits | <u>151,496</u> | <u>121,588</u> |

The Key Educational Trust

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st August 2025**

7. Raising funds - continued

Costs incurred by trading for a fundraising purpose

| | 31/8/25 | 31/8/24 |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Purchases | <u>1,936</u> | <u>2,311</u> |
| Aggregate amounts | <u>153,432</u> | <u>123,899</u> |

8. Charitable activities - academy's educational operations

| | Unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | 31/8/25 Total funds £ | 31/8/24 Total funds £ |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Direct costs | - | 4,823,792 | 4,823,792 | 3,670,940 |
| Support costs | <u>-</u> | <u>1,915,158</u> | <u>1,915,158</u> | <u>1,289,122</u> |
| | <u>-</u> | <u>6,738,950</u> | <u>6,738,950</u> | <u>4,960,062</u> |

| | 31/8/25 Total £ | 31/8/24 Total £ |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Analysis of support costs | | |
| Support staff costs | 543,892 | 444,985 |
| Depreciation | 49,539 | 64,465 |
| Technology costs | 84,217 | 55,943 |
| Premises costs | 544,277 | 516,799 |
| Other support costs | 150,111 | 113,147 |
| Governance costs | 305,122 | 33,783 |
| Pension movement | <u>238,000</u> | <u>60,000</u> |
| Total support costs | <u>1,915,158</u> | <u>1,289,122</u> |

9. Staff costs

| | 31/8/25 £ | 31/8/24 £ |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| Wages and salaries | 3,614,258 | 2,863,149 |
| Social security costs | 393,618 | 280,698 |
| Operating costs of defined benefit pension schemes | <u>1,015,435</u> | <u>697,986</u> |
| | 5,023,311 | 3,841,833 |
| Supply teacher costs | <u>102,887</u> | <u>89,141</u> |
| | <u>5,126,198</u> | <u>3,930,974</u> |

The Key Educational Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31st August 2025

9. Staff costs - continued

The average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the academy trust during the year was as follows:

| | 31/8/25 | 31/8/24 |
|----------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Teachers | 36 | 35 |
| Administration and support | 58 | 49 |
| Management | <u>14</u> | <u>11</u> |
| | <u>108</u> | <u>95</u> |

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

| | 31/8/25 | 31/8/24 |
|---------------------|----------|----------|
| £60,001 - £70,000 | 2 | - |
| £70,001 - £80,000 | - | 1 |
| £80,001 - £90,000 | 2 | 1 |
| £110,001 - £120,000 | - | - |
| £120,001 - £130,000 | <u>1</u> | <u>1</u> |
| | <u>5</u> | <u>3</u> |

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the directors and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £1,301,032 (2024: £979,787).

10. Central services

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

- human resources;
- financial services;
- legal services;
- educational support services; or
- others as arising.

The academy trust charges for these services on the following basis:

- flat percentage of topslice (5%) for Christ Church Academy
- flat percentage of topslice (4%) for Christ Church First School, Oulton First School, St Mary's Primary School and St Peter's Primary School

The amounts charged during the year were as follows:

| | 2025 £ | 2024 £ |
|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Christ Church Academy | 152,621 | 135,999 |
| Christ Church First School | 29,248 | 27,044 |
| Oulton First School | 17,631 | 15,299 |
| St Mary's CE Primary CE School | 11,896 | - |
| St Peter's CE Primary School | 21,853 | - |
| The Key Educational Trust | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> |
| | <u>233,249</u> | <u>178,342</u> |

The Key Educational Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31st August 2025

11. Related party transactions - trustees' remuneration and expenses

There was no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31st August 2025 nor for the year ended 31st August 2024.

One or more of the directors has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the academy trust. The principal and other staff directors 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 services as directors.

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

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---|
| C Wright (principal and trustee): | Remuneration | £125,000 - £130,000 (2024: £125,000 - £130,000) |
| | Employer pension contributions | £35,000 - £40,000 (2024: £30,000 - £35,000) |
| A Graham (resigned as trustee 7 October 2024) | Remuneration | £85,000 - £90,000 (2024: £80,000 - £85,000) |
| | Employer pension contributions | £20,000 - £25,000 (2024: £20,000 - £25,000) |

12. Trustees' and officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the academy trust has purchased insurance to protect directors and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy trust business. The insurance is included within an overall in the total insurance policy cost and is estimated to be £500 per year of that overall cost.

13. Comparatives for the statement of financial activities

| | Unrestricted fund £ | Restricted Fixed Asset fund £ | Restricted funds £ | Total funds £ |
|--|---------------------------|---|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Income and endowments from | | | | |
| Donations and capital grants | - | 179,418 | 95,880 | 275,298 |
| Charitable activities | | | | |
| Funding for the academy's educational operations | 16,640 | - | 4,678,276 | 4,694,916 |
| Other trading activities | 30,860 | - | 7,106 | 37,966 |
| Investment income | 29,290 | - | - | 29,290 |
| Total | <u>76,790</u> | <u>179,418</u> | <u>4,781,262</u> | <u>5,037,470</u> |
| Expenditure on | | | | |
| Raising funds | - | - | 123,899 | 123,899 |
| Charitable activities | | | | |
| Academy's educational operations | - | 140,735 | 4,819,327 | 4,960,062 |
| Total | <u>-</u> | <u>140,735</u> | <u>4,943,226</u> | <u>5,083,961</u> |

The Key Educational Trust

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st August 2025**

13. Comparatives for the statement of financial activities - continued

| | Unrestricted fund £ | Restricted Fixed Asset fund £ | Restricted funds £ | Total funds £ |
|--|---------------------------|---|--------------------------|---------------------|
| NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) | 76,790 | 38,683 | (161,964) | (46,491) |
| Transfers between funds | - | 13,412 | (13,412) | - |
| Other recognised gains/(losses) | | | | |
| Actuarial gains on defined benefit schemes | - | - | 193,000 | 193,000 |
| Net movement in funds | 76,790 | 52,095 | 17,624 | 146,509 |
| Reconciliation of funds | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward | 538,414 | 3,091,410 | 463,799 | 4,093,623 |
| Total funds carried forward | <u>615,204</u> | <u>3,143,505</u> | <u>481,423</u> | <u>4,240,132</u> |

14. Tangible fixed assets

| | Freehold property £ | L'hold land & buildings £ | Fixtures and fittings £ | Computer equipment £ | Totals £ |
|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| Cost | | | | | |
| At 1st September 2024 | 2,180 | 3,811,305 | 278,645 | 341,848 | 4,433,978 |
| Additions | - | 152,102 | 3,000 | 30,082 | 185,184 |
| Reclassification | (2,180) | 2,180 | - | - | - |
| Transfer on conversion | - | - | - | 15,108 | 15,108 |
| At 31st August 2025 | - | <u>3,965,587</u> | <u>281,645</u> | <u>387,038</u> | <u>4,634,270</u> |
| Depreciation | | | | | |
| At 1st September 2024 | - | 620,528 | 211,038 | 319,907 | 1,151,473 |
| Charge for year | - | <u>79,312</u> | <u>10,953</u> | <u>38,587</u> | <u>128,852</u> |
| At 31st August 2025 | - | <u>699,840</u> | <u>221,991</u> | <u>358,494</u> | <u>1,280,325</u> |
| Net book value | | | | | |
| At 31st August 2025 | - | <u>3,265,747</u> | <u>59,654</u> | <u>28,544</u> | <u>3,353,945</u> |
| At 31st August 2024 | <u>2,180</u> | <u>3,190,777</u> | <u>67,607</u> | <u>21,941</u> | <u>3,282,505</u> |

The Key Educational Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31st August 2025

15. Debtors: amounts falling due within one year

| | 31/8/25 | 31/8/24 |
|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Trade debtors | 12,000 | 7,545 |
| VAT | 60,897 | 46,939 |
| Prepayments and accrued income | <u>374,627</u> | <u>171,222</u> |
| | <u>447,524</u> | <u>225,706</u> |

16. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

| | 31/8/25 | 31/8/24 |
|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Trade creditors | 172,158 | 53,304 |
| Social security and other taxes | 97,246 | 63,380 |
| Other creditors | 120,973 | 95,578 |
| Accruals and deferred income | <u>469,356</u> | <u>288,183</u> |
| | <u>859,733</u> | <u>500,445</u> |

Deferred Income

| | 31/8/25 | 31/8/24 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Deferred income as at 1st September 2024 | 207,280 | 273,361 |
| Resources deferred in the year | 252,579 | 207,280 |
| Amounts released from previous years | <u>(207,280)</u> | <u>(273,361)</u> |
| Deferred income as at 31st August 2025 | <u>252,579</u> | <u>207,280</u> |

At the balance sheet date, the Trust was holding funds received in advance from the ESFA in respect of items including Universal Infant Free School Meals, unspent CIF, unspent Pupil Premium funds and school trips in 2025/26.

17. Members' liability

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

The Key Educational Trust

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st August 2025**

18. Movement in funds

| | At 1.9.24 £ | Net movement in funds £ | Transfers between funds £ | At 31.8.25 £ |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------|
| Restricted general funds | | | | |
| General Annual Grant (GAG) | <u>481,423</u> | <u>(205,841)</u> | <u>(147,840)</u> | <u>127,742</u> |
| Restricted fixed asset fund | | | | |
| Restricted fixed asset fund | <u>3,143,505</u> | <u>(58,579)</u> | <u>147,840</u> | <u>3,232,766</u> |
| Total restricted funds | <u>3,624,928</u> | <u>(264,420)</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>3,360,508</u> |
| Unrestricted fund | | | | |
| General fund | <u>615,204</u> | <u>279,873</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>895,077</u> |
| TOTAL FUNDS | <u>4,240,132</u> | <u>15,453</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>4,255,585</u> |

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

| | Incoming resources £ | Resources expended £ | Gains and losses £ | Movement in funds £ |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Restricted general funds | | | | |
| General Annual Grant (GAG) | 4,718,478 | (4,924,319) | - | (205,841) |
| Other DfE/ESFA Grants | 827,659 | (827,659) | - | - |
| Local Authority Grants | 181,583 | (181,583) | - | - |
| Pension deficit | (134,000) | (241,000) | 375,000 | - |
| Other | <u>588,970</u> | <u>(588,970)</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> |
| | <u>6,182,690</u> | <u>(6,763,531)</u> | <u>375,000</u> | <u>(205,841)</u> |
| Restricted fixed asset fund | | | | |
| Restricted fixed asset fund | <u>70,272</u> | <u>(128,851)</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>(58,579)</u> |
| Total restricted funds | <u>6,252,962</u> | <u>(6,892,382)</u> | <u>375,000</u> | <u>(264,420)</u> |
| Unrestricted fund | | | | |
| General fund | <u>279,873</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>279,873</u> |
| TOTAL FUNDS | <u>6,532,835</u> | <u>(6,892,382)</u> | <u>375,000</u> | <u>15,453</u> |

The Key Educational Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st August 2025

18. Movement in funds - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

| | At 1.9.23 £ | Net movement in funds £ | Transfers between funds £ | At 31.8.24 £ |
|------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Restricted general funds | | | | |
| General Annual Grant (GAG) | 596,799 | (101,964) | (13,412) | 481,423 |
| Pension deficit | (133,000) | 133,000 | - | - |
| | <u>463,799</u> | <u>31,036</u> | <u>(13,412)</u> | <u>481,423</u> |
| Restricted fixed asset fund | | | | |
| Restricted fixed asset fund | <u>3,091,410</u> | <u>38,683</u> | <u>13,412</u> | <u>3,143,505</u> |
| | | | | |
| Total restricted funds | <u>3,555,209</u> | <u>69,719</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>3,624,928</u> |
| Unrestricted fund | | | | |
| General fund | <u>538,414</u> | <u>76,790</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>615,204</u> |
| | | | | |
| TOTAL FUNDS | <u>4,093,623</u> | <u>146,509</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>4,240,132</u> |

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

| | Incoming resources £ | Resources expended £ | Gains and losses £ | Movement in funds £ |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Restricted general funds | | | | |
| General Annual Grant (GAG) | 3,778,543 | (3,880,507) | - | (101,964) |
| Other DfE/ESFA Grants | 618,065 | (618,065) | - | - |
| Local Authority Grants | 192,037 | (192,037) | - | - |
| Pension deficit | - | (60,000) | 193,000 | 133,000 |
| Other | <u>192,617</u> | <u>(192,617)</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> |
| | <u>4,781,262</u> | <u>(4,943,226)</u> | <u>193,000</u> | <u>31,036</u> |
| Restricted fixed asset fund | | | | |
| Restricted fixed asset fund | <u>179,418</u> | <u>(140,735)</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>38,683</u> |
| | | | | |
| Total restricted funds | <u>4,960,680</u> | <u>(5,083,961)</u> | <u>193,000</u> | <u>69,719</u> |
| Unrestricted fund | | | | |
| General fund | <u>76,790</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>76,790</u> |
| | | | | |
| TOTAL FUNDS | <u>5,037,470</u> | <u>(5,083,961)</u> | <u>193,000</u> | <u>146,509</u> |

The Key Educational Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31st August 2025

18. Movement in funds - continued

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at the year end were allocated as follows:

| | 2025 £ | 2024 £ |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Christ Church Academy | 643,876 | 589,554 |
| Christ Church First School | (89,460) | 67,939 |
| Oulton School | (18,673) | (26,116) |
| St Mary's CE Primary School | 29,840 | - |
| St Peter's CE Primary School | 23,058 | - |
| The Key Educational Trust | <u>434,178</u> | <u>465,250</u> |
| Total before fixed assets fund and pension reserve | 1,022,819 | 1,096,627 |
| Restricted fixed asset fund | 3,232,766 | 3,143,505 |
| Pension reserve | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> |
| Total funds | <u><u>4,255,585</u></u> | <u><u>4,240,132</u></u> |

Total costs by academy

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

| | Teaching & educational support staff £ | Other support staff costs £ | Educational supplies £ | Other costs excl. dep'n £ | Total 2025 £ | Total 2024 £ |
|--------------------------|--|---|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Christ Church Academy | 2,471,069 | 250,635 | 287,840 | 450,661 | 3,460,205 | 3,242,290 |
| Christ Church 1st School | 698,271 | 140,058 | 19,691 | 153,284 | 1,011,304 | 855,251 |
| Oulton First School | 353,093 | 44,915 | 12,068 | 119,325 | 529,401 | 507,496 |
| St Mary's CE Primary | 274,486 | 27,101 | 13,378 | 61,085 | 376,050 | - |
| St Peter's CE Primary | 555,767 | 49,785 | 16,600 | 133,544 | 755,696 | - |
| Trust | <u>234,692</u> | <u>26,326</u> | <u>4,841</u> | <u>365,015</u> | <u>630,874</u> | <u>338,189</u> |
| | <u><u>4,587,378</u></u> | <u><u>538,820</u></u> | <u><u>354,418</u></u> | <u><u>1,282,914</u></u> | <u><u>6,763,530</u></u> | <u><u>4,672,800</u></u> |

Transfers between funds

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2025.

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

Closing Restricted General Funds were as follows:

The Key Educational Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31st August 2025

18. Movement in funds - continued

Transfers between funds - continued

General Annual Grant

The Principal has in place a schedule of improvements, both in IT and building infrastructure, the costs of which will be made from the GAG fund carried forward. There is no restriction on the balance that can be carried forward on this fund

Catch-up Premium

This represents the balance of the ESFA catch-up premium to support children and young people to catch up lost time after school closures during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Other non-DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding

This represents the balance of COVID-19 Mass Testing funding from Department of Health and Social Care.

Other Restricted

School Fund

This represents the balance of funds held in the School Funds bank account.

Closing Restricted Fixed Asset Funds were as follows:

Transfer from Local Authority on Conversion

This represents the value of assets transferred upon conversion to the Trust, less depreciation accounted for on those assets.

DfE/ESFA capital grants

Since conversion, certain amounts of capital expenditure have been financed out of GAG. This balance represents the amount of funding used in this manner, less the depreciation accounted for on those assets.

Capital expenditure from GAG

Since conversion, certain amounts of capital expenditure have been financed out of GAG. This balance represents the amount of funding used in this manner, less the depreciation accounted for on those assets.

Closing Unrestricted Funds were as follows:

Unrestricted Funds

This fund represents the accumulation of unrestricted funds generated from activities. These funds are held to enable the Trust to accommodate any future GAG deficits and contingency costs.

19. 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 Staffordshire County Council. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

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

There were no outstanding or prepaid contributions at either the beginning or the end of the financial year.

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 Staffordshire Pension Fund. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

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

19. Pension and similar obligations - continued

There were no outstanding or prepaid contributions at either the beginning or end of the financial year.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuation and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2020. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 27 October 2023, with the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, applying a notional investment return based on 1.7% above the rate of CPI. The key elements of the valuation outcome are:

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

The result of this valuation will be implemented from 1 April 2024. The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2028.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £710,358 (2024 - £495,920).

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.

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31st August 2025 was £318,452 (2024 - £251,429), of which employer's contributions totalled £256,420 (2024 - £204,744), and employees' contributions totalled £62,032 (2024 - £46,685). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 22.50 per cent for employers and 12.50 per cent for employees.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of an academy trust closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013.

The Key Educational Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31st August 2025

19. Pension and similar obligations - continued

The amounts recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities are as follows:

| | Defined benefit pension plans | |
|--|--|----------------|
| | 31/8/25 | 31/8/24 |
| | £ | £ |
| Current service cost | 238,000 | 162,000 |
| Net interest from net defined benefit asset/liability | 166,000 | 137,000 |
| Past service cost | - | - |
| | <u>404,000</u> | <u>299,000</u> |
| Actual return on plan assets | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> |

Changes in the present value of the defined benefit obligation are as follows:

| | Defined benefit pension plans | |
|---|--|------------------|
| | 31/8/25 | 31/8/24 |
| | £ | £ |
| Opening defined benefit obligation | 2,844,000 | 2,549,000 |
| Current service cost | 238,000 | 162,000 |
| Contributions by scheme participants | 70,000 | 47,000 |
| Interest cost | 166,000 | 137,000 |
| Benefits paid | (63,000) | (50,000) |
| Business combinations | 482,000 | - |
| Actuarial (gains)/losses from changes in financial assumptions | <u>(666,000)</u> | <u>(1,000)</u> |
| | <u>3,071,000</u> | <u>2,844,000</u> |

Changes in the fair value of scheme assets are as follows:

| | Defined benefit pension plans | |
|--|--|------------------|
| | 31/8/25 | 31/8/24 |
| | £ | £ |
| Opening fair value of scheme assets | 2,844,000 | 2,416,000 |
| Contributions by employer | 305,000 | 206,000 |
| Contributions by scheme participants | 70,000 | 47,000 |
| Actuarial gains/(losses) | 168,000 | 131,000 |
| Benefits paid | (63,000) | (50,000) |
| Business combinations | 348,000 | - |
| Remeasurements: | | |
| Return on plan assets (excluding interest income) | 48,000 | 94,000 |
| Asset ceiling adjustment | <u>(649,000)</u> | <u>-</u> |
| | <u>3,071,000</u> | <u>2,844,000</u> |

The Key Educational Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31st August 2025

19. Pension and similar obligations - continued

The amounts recognised in other recognised gains and losses are as follows:

| | Defined benefit pension plans | |
|--|--|----------------|
| | 31/8/25 | 31/8/24 |
| | £ | £ |
| Actuarial (gains)/losses from changes in financial assumptions | 666,000 | 1,000 |
| Return on plan assets (excluding interest income) | 48,000 | 94,000 |
| Asset ceiling adjustment | (649,000) | - |
| | <u>65,000</u> | <u>95,000</u> |

The major categories of scheme assets as amounts of total scheme assets are as follows:

| | Defined benefit pension plans | |
|--------------|--|------------------|
| | 31/8/25 | 31/8/24 |
| | £ | £ |
| Equities | 1,873,310 | 1,820,160 |
| Bonds | 890,590 | 767,880 |
| Property | 245,680 | 199,080 |
| Other assets | 61,420 | 56,880 |
| | <u>3,071,000</u> | <u>2,844,000</u> |

Principal actuarial assumptions at the Balance Sheet date (expressed as weighted averages):

| | 31/8/25 | 31/8/24 |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Discount rate | 6.05% | 5.00% |
| Future salary increases | 3.20% | 3.15% |
| Future pension increases | 2.70% | 2.65% |

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

| | | |
|----------------------|------|------|
| Retiring today | | |
| Males | 20.2 | 20 |
| Females | 24.8 | 24.8 |
| Retiring in 20 years | | |
| Males | 21.1 | 20.9 |
| Females | 25.2 | 25.2 |

Sensitivity analysis

| | 31/8/25 | 31/8/24 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Discount rate +0.1% | - | - |
| Discount rate -0.1% | 59,000 | 56,000 |
| Mortality assumption - 1 year increase | 123,000 | 114,000 |
| Mortality assumption - 1 year decrease | - | - |
| CPI rate +0.1% | 59,000 | 56,000 |
| CPI rate -0.1% | - | - |

The Key Educational Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31st August 2025

20. Long-term commitments, including operating leases

Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:

| | 31/8/25 | 31/8/24 |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Within one year | 17,081 | 12,508 |
| Between one and five years | <u>29,899</u> | <u>14,692</u> |
| | <u>46,980</u> | <u>27,200</u> |

21. Related party disclosures

No related party transactions took place in the period of account.

22. Conversions and transfers into academy trust

On 1 December 2024 St Mary's CE Primary School converted to academy status under the Academies Act 2010 and all the operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to The Key Educational Trust from the Local Authority for £nil consideration.

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

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

| | Unrestricted funds £ | Restricted General funds £ | Restricted Fixed Asset funds £ | Total £ |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Tangible fixed assets | | | | |
| - Other tangible assets | - | - | 13,457 | 13,457 |
| Current assets | | | | |
| - Budget surplus on LA funds | 54,943 | - | - | 54,943 |
| LGPS pension deficit | <u>-</u> | <u>(80,400)</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>(80,400)</u> |
| | <u>54,943</u> | <u>(80,400)</u> | <u>13,457</u> | <u>(12,000)</u> |

On 1 December 2024 St Peter's CE Primary School converted to academy status under the Academies Act 2010 and all the operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to The Key Educational Trust from the Local Authority for £nil consideration.

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

The Key Educational Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31st August 2025

22. Conversions and transfers into academy trust - continued

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

| | Unrestricted funds | Restricted General funds | Restricted Fixed Asset funds | Total |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Tangible fixed assets | | | | |
| - Other tangible assets | - | - | 1,650 | 1,650 |
| Current assets | | | | |
| - Budget surplus on LA funds | 42,026 | - | - | 42,026 |
| LGPS pension deficit | - | (53,600) | - | (53,600) |
| | <u>42,026</u> | <u>(53,600)</u> | <u>1,650</u> | <u>(9,924)</u> |

Also included in "transfers from local authority on conversion" is an amount of £58,237. This relates to a recently identified investment with CCLA held on behalf of Christ Church Academy. This investment was made prior to conversion, but was not known about until recently.

