

Company Registration Number:
13687278 (England and Wales)

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year ended 31 August 2025



LDLT
LEEDS DIOCESAN
LEARNING TRUST

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

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Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Reference and Administrative Details

Members

Rt. Rev. N Baines (retired 10 November 2025)
 Rt. Rev. M Chamberlain (appointed 11 November 2025)
 Rev. Dr P Hobday (appointed 11 November 2025)
 Rt. Rev. S. Prasadham (resigned 16 September 2024)
 J Wood
 Baroness M Eaton
 M Ambler

Directors

P Foskett (Chair)
 A Cox (Vice-Chair)
 G Park
 R Graham
 C Owen
 A Lancashire (resigned 3 September 2025)
 Rev'd S Hanscombe
 S McGreavy (resigned 4 July 2025)
 A Eastwood (appointed 20 January 2025)

Chief Executive Officer

R Noake

Company Secretary

L Noone

Senior Management Team

R Noake, Chief Executive Officer
 M Foster, Director of School Effectiveness
 L Noone, Chief Financial Officer
 P Acheson, Headteacher (resigned 31 December 2024)
 L Briggs, Headteacher
 J Dobbs, Headteacher
 H Dudman, Headteacher
 S Sanderson, Headteacher
 A Graham, Headteacher
 D Cooper, Headteacher
 S Daggett, Headteacher
 G Crawford, Headteacher (resigned 31 August 2025)
 L Holliday, Headteacher
 O Gibbons, Headteacher
 C Parkhouse, Headteacher (appointed 1 January 2025,
 resigned 31 August 2025)
 K Barker, Head of School

Principal and Registered Office

Parkhill Business Centre
 Walton Road
 Wetherby
 West Yorkshire
 LS22 5DZ

Company Registration Number

13687278 (England and Wales)

Independent Auditor

BHP LLP
 New Chartford House
 Centurion Way
 Cleckheaton
 West Yorkshire
 BD19 3QB

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Reference and Administrative Details

Solicitors	Lupton Fawcett LLP Yorkshire House 2, The Embankment Sovereign St Leeds LS1 4BA
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Bankers	Lloyds Bank Plc 65-68 Briggate Leeds LS1 6LH
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Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Directors' Report



The Directors present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year ended 31 August 2025. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Directors' report, and a Directors' report under company law.

Academic year 2024/2025 was a year of consolidation for Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust (LDLT), with no schools joining the Trust during the year. LDLT continued to operate as a Primary Trust for pupils aged 3 to 11, serving three distinct geographical regions: Ripon and surrounding villages; Skipton and Craven; and Leeds. LDLT has a pupil capacity of 2,466 and had a roll of 2,031 in the Autumn 2025 pupil census.

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and is an exempt charity. The charitable company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the Academy Trust. The company registration number is 13687278.

The Directors act as the Directors for the charitable activities of Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust and are also the Directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company operates as Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust.

The Members of the Trust have a strategic role and less practical involvement in the management of the company, as most day-to-day management decisions are made collectively through the Directors and the CEO.

Details of the Members and Directors who served during the period, and to the date these accounts are approved, are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 2.

Members' Liability

Each Member of the charitable company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the charitable company in the event of it being wound up while they are a Member, or within one period 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

The Academy Trust through its Articles has indemnified its Directors to the fullest extent permissible by law.

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Directors

The Board seeks to have Directors with a range of skills and experience in education, business management, HR and land and building management. New Directors holding the necessary skills are identified through Diocesan, local, regional and national education networks. The Members may appoint up to seven Directors by ordinary resolution.

In circumstances where the Directors have not appointed local academy councils in respect of the academies, or if no provision is made for at least two parent local governors on each established local academy council, there shall be a minimum of two parent Directors.

The Directors may appoint co-opted Directors, on a term no longer than four years, but they may not co-opt an employee of the company as a co-opted director if the number of Directors who are employees of the company would exceed one third of the total number of Directors, including the Chief Executive Officer as a Director.

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Directors' Report (continued)



Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Directors

The training and induction provided for new Directors and local academy council governors will depend upon their existing experience and tailored specifically to the individual.

The Trust appointed its first central Governance and Compliance Lead at the start of the academic year. Directors and local academy council training was provided by the Trust through in-house training, Diocesan training and online training packages through the National College and the National Governance Association (NGA).

Organisational Structure

The Members of Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust are the guardians of the governance of the Trust and ensure that the Trust is being operated in accordance with the objects in the Articles of Association, which only they can vary.

The Directors have overall responsibility and ultimate decision-making authority for all the work of the Trust, including the establishing and running of the member academies. This is exercised through strategic planning and the setting of policy and is managed through business planning, monitoring of budgets, performance management, the setting of standards and the implementation of quality management processes. The names of the Directors who were in office during the year ended 31 August 2025 are given on page 2.

During the year, the Board had four delegated Board committees:

- Finance and Resources Committee
- Audit and Risk Committee
- Curriculum and Standards Committee
- Estates Committee (established February 2025)

The audit and risk committee sits beneath the Board of Directors and covers all elements of risk affecting any school or institution within the Trust, and reports directly to the Board. The committees meet three times a year and monitor the internal scrutiny programme for the Trust.

The individuals on the local academy councils (LACs) are appointed by the Directors and are responsible for the day to day management of each school in the Trust. At the end of the year the Trust held Dacre Braithwaite Church of England Primary School, Fountains Church of England Primary School, Grewelthorpe Church of England Primary School, Holy Trinity Church of England Infant and Nursery, Holy Trinity Church of England Junior School, Roecliffe Church of England Primary School, Carleton Endowed Church of England Primary School, Christ Church, Church of England Primary School, Sutton in Craven Church of England Primary School, St Peter's Church of England Primary School, St Matthew's Church of England Primary School, Roundhay St John's Church of England Primary School, North Stainley Church of England Primary School and Barwick in Elmet Church of England Primary School. These make up the fourteen academies within the Trust.

The LAC of each institution are responsible for a local support, monitor and challenge agenda of the leaders and staff of their respective schools or federations throughout the year. This is predominantly done through the delegated responsibilities, as set out in the Trust Scheme of Delegation.

From February 2025, a new committee has been established, the Estates Committee. An overview of the governance structure for 2025/26 can be found on page 6.

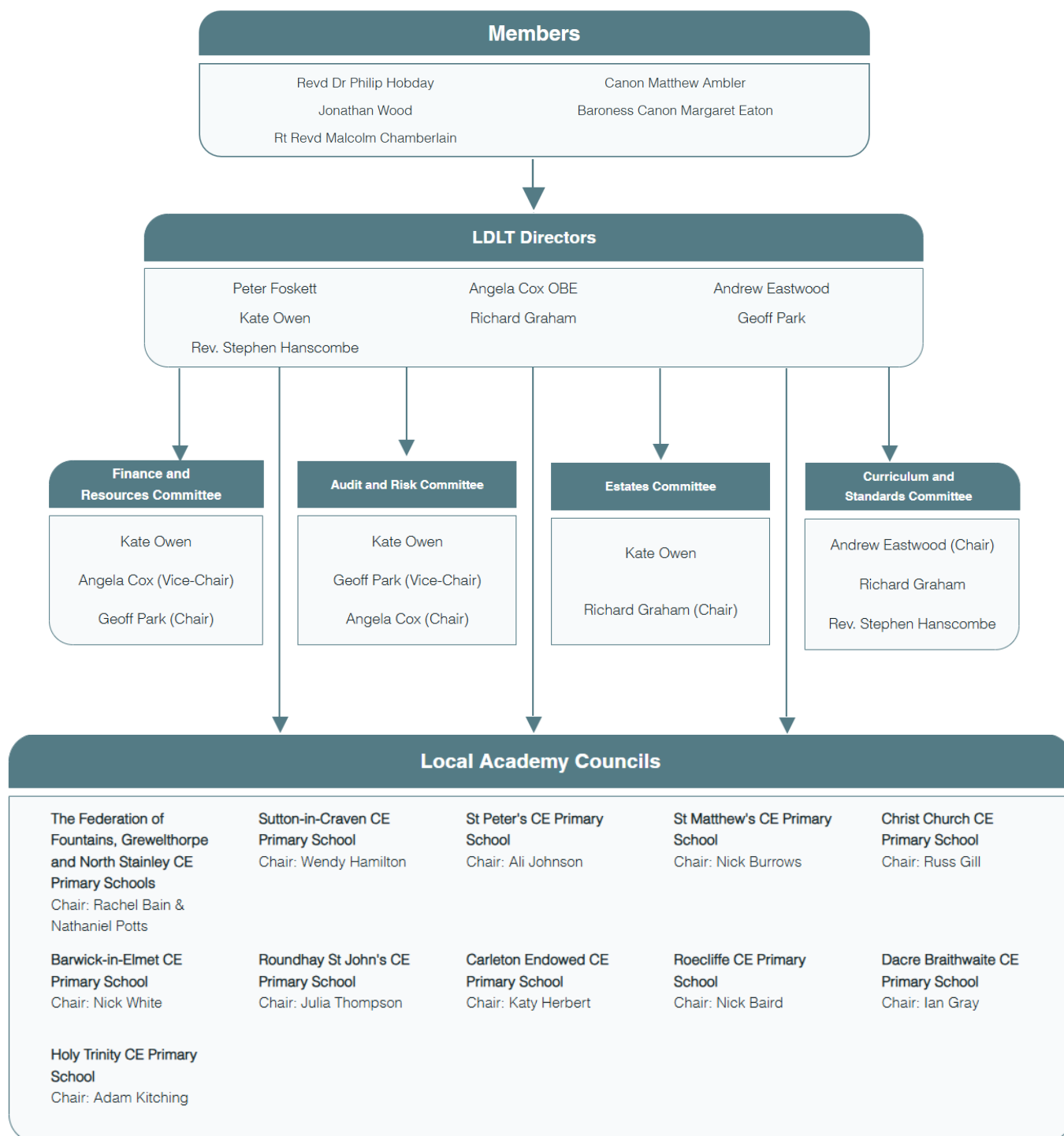
The Executive Team consisting of the Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Financial Officer and the Director of School Effectiveness, manages the Trust and its academies at an executive level by implementing the policies agreed by the Directors and reporting back to them regularly. The head teachers across the Trust are responsible for authorisation of spending within agreed budgets and the appointment of staff at their schools. They are also responsible for all school level safeguarding, SEND, Health and Safety and Stage 1 and 2 complaints.

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust Directors' Report (continued)



Organisational Structure

At the point of signing the accounts, on 12 December 2025, this is the organisational structure of Leeds Diocesan learning Trust.



Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Directors' Report (continued)



Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The Trust Board directly oversees all central staff remuneration decisions following successful performance management. Pay decisions for all central team staff are referred to the Board.

The Trust has a robust process for the scrutiny of staff performance and remuneration and in particular for those staff identified by the Department for Education as having “high salaries”. The Trust conducts executive salary benchmarking providing additional scrutiny on high salaries.

When academies join LDLT, all Headteachers are to be line managed by their local academy council chair and the Chief Executive Officer. Pay ranges for Head Teachers, Deputy Head Teachers and Assistant Head Teachers are determined in line with the STPCD.

Trade union facility time

There were no employees of the Academy Trust who were relevant union officials during the period under review.

Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

As a Church of England Multi Academy Trust, LDLT works closely with the Diocese of Leeds to preserve the Christian nature of the schools. The Trust is linked to the diocese through a number of connections at Member, Director and central team level.

Details of related parties and transactions are set out in note 26.

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Directors' Report (continued)



Objectives and Activities

Objects and Aims

The principal object and activity of the Academy Trust is to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing academies which shall offer a broad and balanced curriculum which shall include:

- I. Church of England Schools designated as such which shall be conducted in accordance with the principles, practices and tenets of the Church of England both generally and in particular in relation to arranging for religious education and daily acts of worship, and
- II. may include other schools whether with or without a designated religious character;

but in relation to each of the Academies to recognise and support their individual ethos, whether or not designated Church of England. LDLT's vision is as follows:

"Serving and celebrating our unique schools and communities, we will love, live and learn together. Valuing our pupils, staff, governors, and team as people of God, we will deliver transformational learning and the flourishing of all."

Our Vision is rooted in the example of the life of Jesus. In each Gospel and story, we are challenged to love one another and ourselves (Matthew 22:37-39) and reminded that all things are possible (Matthew 19:26). Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

A lived out vision



Loving means:

- Ensuring everyone knows they have ultimate worth as a child of God and has a unique part to play in the world
- Building resilience for when things go wrong and then offering a way back
- Commitment to a culture of well-being for every member of the whole school community
- Being a prophetic voice when needed

Living means:

- Living out a vigilant culture of safeguarding, as everyone has a right to be safe
- Building strong relationships and partnerships that support and enhance our shared life
- Celebrating diversity and difference, supporting all to flourish
- Living and leading ethically

Learning means:

- Opening horizons of hope so that our aspirations are achievable
- Fostering confidence and delight in lifelong learning
- Building a breadth of experiences, knowledge and skills to succeed now and in the future
- A commitment to removing barriers to learning, whatever they may be

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Directors' Report (continued)



Objectives, Strategies and Activities

The Trust's objectives for 2024/25 have been drawn directly from the Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust Strategic Plan 2024–2029 and are firmly rooted in our vision of “Loving, Living and Learning Together”. In setting annual priorities, Directors have ensured that each objective is explicitly mapped to one of the five strategic threads – Educational Standards, Culture and Inclusion, Leading and Developing People, Growth and Impact, and Operational Effectiveness – so that day-to-day activity and resource deployment are clearly aligned with the long-term direction of the Trust. This structured approach enables the Board to monitor progress consistently across all schools, demonstrate the impact of our work against our strategic aims and provide assurance that decision-making during the year has been driven by our agreed Trust-wide strategy.

Educational Standards

- Develop a Trust-wide programme for assessment recording and data scrutiny, supported by schools, to strengthen evidence-based improvement.
- Embed the wider use of networking across schools to share best practice and drive improvement from within the Trust.

Culture and Inclusion

- Ensure all schools deliver an annual safeguarding plan aligned to Trust expectations, securing consistent and robust safeguarding practice.

Leading and Developing People

- Deliver a collaborative INSET day for all staff to share and develop practice around Trust priorities.
- Launch the digital LDLT Staff Handbook to provide all colleagues with clear, accessible guidance and expectations.

Growth and Impact

- Fully implement and monitor the School Improvement Strategy to provide bespoke, proactive support and challenge for every school.

Operational Effectiveness

- Embed Arbor as the Trust-wide MIS to ensure consistent, accurate and efficient management of data across all schools.
- Complete migration of all schools to one Google network to enable seamless collaboration and secure digital operations.
- Launch the LDLT Digital Strategy to provide a coherent vision for technology in learning and operations.
- Draft a Trust-wide Estates Strategy supported by costed asset management plans for each school to inform sustainable growth and improvement.

Commitment to supporting the schools as Church Schools

The objects and aims of the Trust are clear. In seeking to ensure that those Trust schools which are Church of England schools are authentically and distinctively Church Schools the Directors and central team have engaged in a positive and proactive relationship with the Diocese of Leeds, its Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) and the Diocesan Education Team. Each Church School in the Trust is supported through the Service Level Agreement (Enhanced Service Plan) with the LDBE which forms part of the Trust's school improvement model with the schools and is an integral part of the central services offer to each school.

Church Schools in the Trust have a named adviser from the LDBE who works with the school to identify school development and improvement priorities. These priorities are specifically focused around the Christian vision of the school and the way that each school can uniquely and distinctively articulate the trust deed that founded the school and its contemporary relevance to the place of the school in its local community. This work brings together the statutory commitment of each school to provide a strong and dynamic Religious Education curriculum that ensures each child understands the Christian faith as a living tradition. It also supports the delivery of invitational and inspirational Collective Worship in each school setting, helping children and young people to appreciate and understand the dynamics of worship and the way in which this daily tradition can underpin life and living.

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Directors' Report (continued)



The Trust encourages each Church School to be in relationship with its local parish and to nurture the opportunities that can be gained from clergy and lay people visiting school as well as the school having regular, meaningful visits to church.

The Trust sees the LDBE as providing the expertise in relation to being prepared for Section 48 (denominational) inspection and has benefitted from input to the Trust Board and schools on the SIAMS framework. The outworking of this support is visible in the SIAMS outcome achieved at four schools during the academic year: Carleton Endowed in Carleton near Skipton; Holy Trinity Infants and Nursery, Ripon; Grewelthorpe CE Primary, near Ripon; St Peter's, in Leeds and referenced later in this report. The Trust is also blessed in having a serving SIAMS inspector as one of its head teachers, Mrs Jo Dobbs, and she has continued to support Trust schools to understand the SIAMS process better.

All of the head teachers, central team, Chair of the Board and a number of Directors attended the Diocese's Annual Senior Leaders Conference at the Queen's Hotel in Leeds (November 2024). The inspirational speakers helped all the heads to reflect on their roles as leaders of Church Schools.

Public Benefit

The Directors confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance provided by the Charity Commission. They have referred to this guidance when reviewing the Academy Trust's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities.

The Academy Trust aims to advance for the public benefit, education in the United Kingdom.

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Directors' Report (continued)



Strategic Report

Achievements and Performance

Academic year 2024/25 has been the third full year of operation for the Trust. No new schools joined the Trust which allowed for a period of consolidation. Four Section 48 SIAMS inspections were planned for the year. Ofsted inspections were also expected and by the end of the year the Trust had managed four, a combination of Section 5 and 8 inspections. The Trust approved its first Trust Five Year Strategy in July 2024 and that has been the driving force for all focused work across the Trust. The Board received and approved the 2024/2025 Operation Plan in September 2024. The key achievements of the year are detailed below.

Delivering on Trust Priorities

The Five Year Strategy identifies five Key Strategic Themes that will direct the Trust in delivering on its vision and mission. The five themes are:

1. Educational Standards;
2. Culture and Inclusion;
3. Leading and Developing People;
4. Growth and Impact;
5. Operational Effectiveness.

During this first year of delivering on the strategy the Board prioritised a number of areas that continued to build on priorities from the first two years of operation whilst broadening and deepening the impact of the Trust on the schools within its operation.

Educational Standards

There was a strong focus on improving outcomes across the Trust, underpinned by the development of consistent Trust-wide data tracking. Following the successful migration to Arbor in 2023/24, work this year centred on embedding the system, particularly its use for strategic attendance monitoring, payments and staff absence data, enabling more accurate and timely analysis. Alongside this, the Trust continued to develop a coherent programme for assessment recording and data scrutiny, which will be further expanded in 2025/26. Professional networks were strengthened across all schools, supporting curriculum leaders and sharing best practice in SEND, EYFS, Early Reading, Phonics, Maths, English, RE, Humanities and PE. The Trust-wide Training Day in March 2025 brought together all teaching and non-teaching staff, providing opportunities for network members to collaborate in person across host schools, with a strong focus on pedagogy. External experts, Trust-led sessions, bespoke Maths training for Teaching Assistants, and tailored development for finance and administrative staff all contributed to a highly collaborative event that received very positive feedback.

The Trust prioritised the quality of education across all schools through the continued embedding of the School Improvement Strategy, including in schools that joined late in the previous year. This included the adoption of a common approach to school development planning and self-evaluation, peer reviews facilitated through senior leader partnerships, and external reviews delivered in collaboration with another Church Trust for schools approaching Ofsted or SIAMS inspection.

A further focus for all schools was deepening their identity as Church schools, supported through the Leeds Diocesan Board of Education SLA, with tailored work on articulating spiritual development for pupils and adults. All schools adopted the Diocesan Syllabus for RE and the Understanding Christianity framework, reinforced by the establishment of a new RE professional network which strengthened pedagogical dialogue across the Trust. The impact of this work was evidenced through four positive Section 48 SIAMS inspection outcomes during the year.

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Directors' Report (continued)



Culture and Inclusion

Pupil attendance was a relentless focus for schools. Arbor provided immediate access to school data on attendance and on a weekly basis enabled the Trust central team to interrogate practice across schools. A strong attendance culture supported a strong culture for safeguarding and the Trust's work with its external professional safeguarding partner Clennell Education Solutions, who continued to provide responsive advice and guidance to schools and Trust senior leaders. Trust growth provided opportunities to establish dedicated Trust based training for safeguarding both virtually and in person, with an LDLT safer recruitment training programme in place by the end of the year. Clennell audits and internal Trust reviews of safeguarding through the year provided rigour and a relentless focus on best practice across all settings. The Trust carried out a second annual staff survey on health and wellbeing with a high response rate. Survey findings led to a letter being sent to all staff reflecting on their feedback and committing to school and Trust level actions. Inclusion was at the forefront of Trust planning and training throughout the year with a number of Trust conference days on SEND, led by external experts as well as Trust specialists. The focus for these days was on SEND law as well as supporting best practice. A Trust communication strategy featured as a priority throughout the year with a Trust communications policy approved by the Board. In addition, external communications expertise was brokered to support Trust wide communications practice and offer training to senior leaders in marketing their schools.

Leading and Developing People: A Trust focus on Ethical Leadership including how that is embodied at all levels featured in the CEO input at the Trust training day as well as at in-person senior leadership team meetings. Trust staff completed the Trust led NPQ in Leading Teaching programme, led by Director of School Effectiveness Mark Foster. The developing professional networks became a main feature of Trust level CPD. The Trust has committed to support aspiring leaders to enrol for the NPQH programme in 2025/26. The Trust supported school staff to receive support from various teaching hubs (Maths, English and Computing) and other professional providers, like White Rose Maths, which helped to develop staff expertise. The Trust launched a digital Staff Handbook during the year providing a one-stop shop for all employees with links to all relevant Trust documents and policies.

Growth and Impact

Following a period of rapid expansion in the previous two years in which 14 schools joined the Trust, 2024/25 was focused on consolidation rather than further growth. The scale and pace of earlier expansion required the Trust to prioritise the strengthening of core systems, the embedding of actions from external audits and reviews, and the implementation of several major operational changes. During the year, the Trust successfully embedded Arbor as its MIS, introduced a new catering provider, brought cleaning and clerking services in-house, centralised premises compliance with the newly appointed Estates Manager and completed the migration of all schools onto a single Google platform, enabling the Trust to operate fully serverless. These developments represented significant strategic milestones that enhanced consistency, efficiency and compliance across all schools; taking on additional schools during this period would have risked compromising delivery of these essential priorities.

Although formal growth was not pursued, interest in the Trust remained strong, with more than 20 schools initiating conversations about future partnership and one school securing LDBE approval (pending DfE decision). The Trust's impact across its existing schools was demonstrated through high-quality professional support and challenge, which contributed positively to eight inspection outcomes during the year. The Board extends its thanks to school leaders and governors for their commitment to maintaining high standards across our communities, ensuring that consolidation strengthened rather than slowed the Trust's progress.

Operational Effectiveness

2024/25 was a year of significant strengthening of Trust-wide systems, processes and organisational capacity. Governance was successfully brought in-house, with the establishment of a central Governance Lead and a team of Trust clerks. Bespoke governance systems were developed to align with LDLT's vision and values, ensuring more consistent, efficient and compliant practice across all Local Academy Councils. A comprehensive suite of governance documentation, including organisational templates, guides, clerking handbooks and the code of conduct, was reviewed and updated, and the introduction of GovernorHub further enhanced transparency, record-keeping and communication ahead of the planned governance review in 2025/26.

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Directors' Report (continued)



The Trust also undertook a major structural change with the amalgamation of Holy Trinity Infants and Juniors, responding proactively to falling pupil numbers linked to the national drop in birth rates. This project included the installation of a two-class modular build, full refurbishment of the Early Years environment and wider site reconfiguration. The amalgamation has united the community, promoted collaborative working across the staff team, and created opportunities for enhanced outdoor learning and buddying between older and younger children. This capital investment is already delivering educational, financial and community benefits.

Significant progress was made in strengthening operational systems Trust-wide. All schools embedded the use of new estates management software for compliance monitoring and servicing, marking the first time such systems had been consistently used across the Trust. Schools also migrated to a new budget management platform, improving forecasting, financial oversight and consistency of reporting. Alongside this, the Trust prepared an ambitious estates strategy supported by detailed, costed asset management plans for each school.

During the year, the central team supported capital investment totalling £1,593,208, including successful CIF bids for St Peter's heating refurbishment, Grewelthorpe's new roof, and fire safety projects at Christ Church and Holy Trinity. These investments, combined with a new catering contract and the procurement of a new Trust HR provider, strengthened the quality and reliability of essential services.

Digital development continued at pace. All schools transitioned to a single Google environment, enabling improved collaboration and a fully serverless infrastructure. The Trust prepared a new digital strategy with a strong focus on how technology supports children's outcomes, piloted AI tools to help reduce staff workload and introduced an online Headteacher's Report template to streamline reporting to LACs. Website audits were completed for all schools to support compliance and strengthen external communications, and new signage and marketing materials were installed across most school sites to enhance the Trust's brand identity.

Financially, the Trust is in a stronger position, with three-year forecasts for 2025/26 representing a notable improvement on the previous year. Together, these developments reflect a year of consolidation and capacity-building that positions the Trust for sustainable future growth.

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Directors' Report (continued)



Key Performance Indicators

Performance Data

LDLT is made up of schools serving urban and rural areas with over half being small and rural schools with small cohorts, which can result in anomalies in the performance data due to the number of pupils taking assessments. Below are the final outcomes for statutory assessments for the May and June period of 2025.

Y6 SATS

School	Reading ARE (GD)	Maths ARE (GD)	Writing ARE (GD)	GPS* ARE (GD)	Combined RWM ARE (GD)
National 2024	75	74	72	73	62
Dacre Braithwaite	75 (38)	75 (38)	75 (13)	75 (13)	50 (13)
Roecliffe	100 (57)	100 (43)	86 (29)	100 (57)	86 (43)
Holy Trinity	79 (40)	71 (22)	72 (14)	83 (32)	62 (9)
Fountains	67 (50)	83 (17)	67	100 (17)	67
Grewelthorpe	100 (57)	93 (21)	79 (14)	79 (50)	79 (7)
Carleton Endowed	59 (23)	52	68 (11)	59 (23)	40 (18)
St Matthew's	83 (40)	83 (40)	72 (7)	87 (37)	70 (5)
Roundhay St John's	97 (67)	90 (50)	87 (27)	93 (43)	83 (20)
Barwick	72 (36)	78 (30)	83 (17)	75 (46)	64 (4)
Christ Church	86 (43)	86 (38)	76 (10)	67 (19)	71 (10)
North Stainley*					
St Peter's	87 (50)	90 (57)	93 (17)	93 (53)	87 (13)
Sutton CE	81 (19)	70 (6)	70 (6)	75 (25)	50

*Redacted due to cohort size

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Directors' Report (continued)



Phonics Screening Year 1

	Cohort Size	% Pupils Achieving
National Average 2024		80
Dacre Braithwaite	12	83
Roeccliffe	14	100
Holy Trinity	30	70
Fountains	7	86
Grewelthorpe	8	83
Carleton Endowed	21	86
Christ Church	20	70
*North Stainley	3	
Barwick	29	62
Roundhay St John's	30	89
St Matthew's	60	78
St Peter's	29	93
Sutton CE	19	89

*Redacted due to cohort size.

EYFS Good Level of Development (GLD)

	Cohort Size	% Pupils Achieving
National data based on 2024		67
Dacre Braithwaite	12	83
Roeccliffe	14	86
Holy Trinity	35	70
*Fountains	4	
Grewelthorpe	7	86
Carleton Endowed	15	67
Christ Church	18	72
*North Stainley	3	
Barwick	21	76
Roundhay St John's	30	73
St Matthew's	40	68
St Peter's	30	60
Sutton CE	7	57

*Redacted due to cohort size.

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Directors' Report (continued)



Attendance

Overall attendance for the 2024/25 academic year nationally was 93.2% with persistent absence (students with attendance below 90%) at 18.3%. As a Trust our average attendance was 95.7% with Persistent Absence at 7.94%. It was pleasing to see all LDLT schools achieve attendance rates above national averages, with some schools having very good overall rates. It was particularly pleasing to see the increase in overall attendance levels by close to 2% at both Dacre and Holy Trinity with persistent absence reduced across all settings. We must also pause to celebrate the schools with outstanding levels of attendance within the table below.

	Overall attendance	Persistent Absence
National Average	94.2	15.6
North Stainley	95.1	9.6
Roecliffe	97.1	1.6
Holy Trinity Infant	94.9	11.1
Holy Trinity Junior	96.1	7.6
Fountains	95.1	10.5
Grewelthorpe	96.2	7.6
Carleton Endowed	94.1	11.4
Christ Church	94.6	11.8
Dacre Braithwaite	95.9	6.9
Barwick	94.5	11.8
Roundhay St John's	95.7	6.0
St Matthew's	95.6	7.6
St Peter's	97.3	2.2
Sutton CE	94.5	8.0

This summary highlights the key outcomes from recent Ofsted and SIAMS inspections across the Trust's schools, celebrating the collective successes and demonstrating the commitment to excellence in education as well as religious and spiritual development. In total we have had four very positive Ofsted inspections as well as four SIAMs inspections which all resulted in Judgement 1 outcomes stating our schools live up to their foundation as a Church school.

Ofsted Reports

Fountains Church of England Primary School (Inspection Date: 5 March 2025)

- Effectively maintained its "good" overall effectiveness.
- Commended as a welcoming environment where pupils thrive.
- Parents and carers consistently note that children are happy and nurtured.
- Strong relationships between pupils and staff contribute to a positive atmosphere.
- Aspiration for all pupils to achieve highly, particularly in English and mathematics.
- Pupils achieve well, especially in reading.
- Pupils exhibit kind behaviour and support each other, fostering a strong sense of community.

Carleton Endowed CofE Primary School (Inspection Dates: 18 and 19 March 2025)

- Is no longer in an Ofsted category of concern and achieved "Good" ratings for behaviour and attitudes, personal development, and early years provision.
- Pupils are happy, safe, and enjoy attending school, exhibiting politeness and courtesy.
- The school fosters a warm, caring, and welcoming environment where pupils from different year groups mix well.
- Many pupils embrace leadership responsibilities, speaking with pride about their roles as ambassadors and their contributions to supporting peers and the school community.

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Directors' Report (continued)



- In subjects where the curriculum is more established, there is a clear structure to the way that the curriculum is taught. Teachers know what pupils are expected to learn and in what order and routinely check for understanding. This will be built upon across subjects in the next academic year.

Grewelthorpe Church of England Primary School (Inspection Date: 18 June 2025)

- Has taken effective action to maintain the standards identified at its previous inspection, demonstrating sustained quality.
- Widely described as "a small school with a big heart," characterized by a warm, welcoming, and aspirational ethos.
- Pupils are valued as individuals and consistently meet the school's high expectations for behaviour and learning.
- Results in good attendance and strong academic achievement across the board.
- Successfully fosters curious and enthusiastic learners from the early years onwards.
- Supported by positive and respectful relationships between pupils and staff.

Holy Trinity Church of England Infant and Nursery School (Inspection Dates: 17 and 18 June 2025)

- Achieved "Good" ratings across all key areas: quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development, leadership and management, and early years provision. The school had historically been graded as 'Requires Improvement' in 2 inspections prior to conversion into LDLT.
- Pupils are safe and happy, benefiting from positive relationships grounded in mutual respect.
- The school's consistent high expectations for behaviour are reinforced through a rewarding system.
- Significant improvements to the curriculum have raised expectations for pupil achievement and they are coming to fruition.
- Enables pupils to acquire essential knowledge and skills for success and next steps in their learning journey.

SIAMS Reports

Carleton Endowed Church of England Primary School (Inspection Date: 26 November 2024)

- Effectively living up to its foundation as a Church school, enabling pupils and adults to flourish.
- Recently refreshed Christian vision and associated values drive leaders' actions and are lived out through loving relationships.
- Vision is well-understood by staff, pupils, and families, resulting in a caring, inclusive school.
- Christian value of love inspires adults and pupils to work tirelessly for the wellbeing of others, fostering appreciation among staff and valuing pupils.
- Teachers plan adventurous RE lessons, providing high-quality teaching that significantly contributes to pupil motivation and inquisitiveness.
- Leads to lively discussions and high-quality work in RE.

Holy Trinity Church of England Infant and Nursery School (Inspection Date: 10 March 2025)

- Successfully living up to its foundation as a Church school, enabling pupils and adults to flourish.
- Clear and shared vision drives the school's journey, creating an environment where individuals are known and enabled to thrive.
- Profound impact of relationships and links with surrounding churches provides significant support to the school community.
- Collective worship is a transformative part of the school day, shaping spiritual, moral, and communal life and deepening shared understanding of faith, love, and service.
- Leaders cultivate a culture where positive relationships flourish, strengthening belonging and unity.
- Religious education (RE) is effectively led, encouraging pupils to ask "big questions," fostering enquiry skills, and promoting reflection and the formation of their own views.

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Directors' Report (continued)



Grewelthorpe Church of England Primary School (Inspection Date: 20 May 2025)

- Living up to its foundation as a Church school, enabling both pupils and adults to flourish.
- Exceptional sense of a loving and caring school community where every individual is known and nurtured, inspired by the school's vision.
- Strong and mutually beneficial partnerships with the Trust, the Diocese of Leeds, and other school partnerships significantly contribute to the flourishing of pupils and adults.
- Collective worship is central to the school, with a strong partnership with the local church enriching spiritual growth.
- Leaders prioritize wellbeing, fostering a deeply embedded nurturing culture where pupils and adults treat each other well.
- Ensures that pupils enjoy learning about different world religions and beliefs, enriching their understanding through trips to places of worship.

St Peter's Church of England Primary School (Inspection Date: 12 June 2025)

- Living up to its foundation as a Church school, enabling pupils and adults to flourish.
- School leaders demonstrate a strong understanding of their context, having crafted a Christian vision that effectively meets community needs, complemented by the work of the Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust (LDLT).
- Robust culture of inclusion is evident, with an exceptional sense of caring leading to individuals being known and personally valued.
- Spiritual development is meticulously planned and integrated into the curriculum, offering exciting learning experiences that broaden pupils' understanding of the world.
- Provides a rich and varied collective worship, enhanced by strong partnerships with local churches that profoundly impact pupils' worship life.
- Religious education (RE) is carefully planned, with staff exhibiting extensive subject knowledge and selecting resources that represent a range of cultures, ensuring pupils make good progress.

Key Financial Performance Indicators

	2025	2024
Total Fund balance (excluding fixed assets and pension) (£)	958,800	1,151,028
Cash at bank (£)	1,958,140	1,612,580
DFE funding as % of total income	81.7%	79.9%
Spend on staff as % of total revenue expenditure	76.8%	71.5%

The Directors have reviewed the financial KPIs and have no concerns regarding the going concern of the trust.

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Directors' Report (continued)



Going Concern

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

There continues to be some recognised uncertainties, as our Trust consists of small and rural schools, with fluctuating pupil numbers. LDLT Directors take a prudent and risk averse position in assuming funding before it is confirmed to be available. Directors are fully aware of all assumptions that have taken place during the production of the Trust budgets.

Financial Review

During the period, the Academy Trust had a net surplus on restricted general funds (excluding pension reserve) and unrestricted funds of £1,841 (2024: surplus of £498,717). Leeds Diocesan Board of Finance donated a grant to LDLT totalling £60,013 (2024: £90,000) to support school improvement at Carleton Endowed CE Primary School. In 2024 this donation was to assist with the setup costs and growth of the Academy Trust.

Reserves Policy

The Board of Directors have reviewed the Reserves and Investment Policy during the period. The target level of reserves that will be held by the Trust is 5% of total income. Currently the reserves held are equal to 5.7% of total income for the year ended 31 August 2025 (2024: 7.5%).

All reserves are reviewed by the Trust on a regular basis, and an appropriate range of options will be considered. These might include releasing the funds into the revenue budget in furtherance of the Trust's objectives, assigning funds to appropriate designated reserves as may be determined by the Trust, or investing the funds to generate further income to allow expansion of the Trust's work. The Trust has a responsibility to hold reserves that mitigate potential risks against short-term reductions in funding and/or income which would financially impact the cash flow of the Trust.

The movement of funds to and from the reserves identified (other than movements from restricted to unrestricted) above will be at the discretion of the Trust where delegated authority has been provided by the Board of Directors, subject to the restrictions which will remain attached to restricted funds (revenue and capital) and their use. The movement of funds from restricted to unrestricted must be subject to obtaining appropriate consent from the original donor of the funds.

The balance on restricted general revenue funds (excluding pension reserve) plus the balance on unrestricted funds amounted to £924,751 (2024: £922,910). There are additional capital funds (excluding NBV fixed assets) of £34,049 (2024: £228,118).

Investment Policy

The investment objectives of the Trust are to:

- achieve a long-term real rate of return, net of inflation, to provide a source of capital to meet beneficiary and operational needs without subjecting the fund to large disinvestment that could impact the ability of the fund to meet future long-term financial commitments.
- provide an income to the Trust to help maintain its operational effectiveness in the short term.

The policy states that all investments must be ethical and in line with the Trust ethos. There are several investment sectors that the Trust would not invest in e.g., gambling and alcohol. However, a full return approach will take precedence, allowing the Trust to focus on investments providing optimal performance in terms of overall return rather than investments which would provide the right balance of capital and income return. The protection of present and future beneficiaries will be a key responsibility of the Trust. Surplus income should only be invested if there is no requirement to spend the money within 24 months of the investment. All investments are communicated to the Finance and Resources Committee and currently there are no investments.

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Directors' Report (continued)



Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The Trust has a formal risk management programme, which is managed within the central team, with oversight by the audit and risk committee. The Directors have assessed the major risks to which the organisation may be exposed, in particular those relating to teaching, provision of facilities, and other operational areas of the Trust, including finance.

LDLT continues to develop and embed the system of internal control, including financial, operational and risk management which is designed to protect the Academy Trust's assets and reputation. The Executive Team maintain a risk register centrally, which is reviewed by the board annually and at every audit and risk committee meeting. The key risks fall into the following categories.

Education

There is a continued lack of support and resource for schools to provide appropriate and inclusive provision for pupils with special educational needs and/or disability. A lack of places in SEND schools has resulted in pupils in mainstream education, without the opportunities or resources for them to develop. We recognise that this is a challenge facing all of our schools and has an impact on budgets and staffing, as well as in the classroom. During the year we have extended our work with an external SEND consultant to work with our schools. We have also continued to invest in our Thrive project to ensure a whole Trust approach to managing pupil health, wellbeing and behaviours for all newly converted schools.

Financial

The principal risk and uncertainty the Trust faces is the continued funding from the Department of Education. To mitigate against this risk, the Trust ensures that these funds are used for the purpose they were provided for and only in accordance with guidance laid out in the DfE Academy Trust Handbook. The Trust ensures proper stewardship of those funds, economy, efficiency and effectiveness in their use, using its discretion reasonably and takes into account any and all relevant guidance on accountability or propriety. The Trust uses prudent budgetary assumptions with support from national networks and economic trends and forecasts.

Governance and Compliance

Ensuring compliance with all regulatory frameworks, including educational standards, safeguarding, and financial regulations, is a strategic risk. Non-compliance can lead to reputational damage, potential funding cuts, and even regulatory intervention.

People

To deliver our key aims and objectives, we rely on recruiting, retaining and developing our workforce. Nationally there are concerns around staff recruitment and retention in education, as schools struggle to balance their budgets, the ratios of pupils per adult are increasing. The risk cannot be fully eliminated as we rely on Government funding, however the Trust is mitigating the risk by providing networks and development opportunities in all areas of the workforce. As part of our budget planning, we benchmark pupil:staffing ratios against similar schools and follow the national pay scales for teacher and support staff.

Estates

Health and safety is a fundamental element of good estates management. The Trust purchases health and safety support from an external provider, who regularly visits the school sites and provides recommendations and actions to the Local Academy Councils and Trust Board. The school buildings require significant spend and investment to remain a safe and secure place for pupils to learn and it is a risk to the Trust if schools are unsuccessful in CIF bid applications, with limited resources to improve the estates.

Cyber security

The Trust has an inherent risk to cyber security due to the number of users of IT across the schools. We rely on staff and pupils being aware of cyber risks and acting appropriately when a threat is identified. We ensure all staff and governors attend annual cyber security training to mitigate the risk. The Trust has appropriate recovery procedures in place with regular backups taken of all data to reduce the risk of data loss. The Trust is a member of the DfE's Risk Protection Arrangement, which protects against the financial loss of a cyber security incident.

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Directors' Report (continued)



Fundraising

The academy Trust does not use any external fundraisers. All fundraising undertaken during the year was monitored by the Directors.

Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting

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

Plans for Future Periods

In 2025/26, the Trust will focus on delivering the second year of the five-year strategic plan. The Operational Plan 2025/26 sets out a clear programme of work across the five strategic themes, with an emphasis on strengthening educational outcomes, deepening inclusion, investing in people, maturing governance and operational systems, and preparing for sustainable future growth.

Educational Standards

The Trust will embed a consistent Trust-wide approach to assessment and data analysis using Arbor, ensuring that schools track pupil progress accurately and respond swiftly to emerging needs. The year will also see the introduction of an LDLT "Readiness for Ofsted" framework, aligned with the new inspection expectations and the Report Card approach, supporting leaders to articulate curriculum intent, implementation and impact with confidence. A "Community and Local Leadership Charter" will also be developed to strengthen each school's identity, civic contribution and local partnerships.

Culture and Inclusion

Work on safeguarding, attendance and wellbeing will be aligned through an integrated dashboard and response cycle, strengthening Trust oversight and allowing earlier identification of trends or vulnerabilities. The Trust will also launch a new Inclusion Strategy, setting out a coherent framework for SEND, equality, diversity and belonging to improve the lived experience of all pupils. The LDLT Communications Policy will be embedded across all schools, reinforcing a culture of clarity, respect and wellbeing in professional communication.

Leading and Developing People

A structured cycle of leadership reflection, coaching and accountability will be introduced for senior and middle leaders, rooted in the Church of England's leadership virtues. The Trust will design a comprehensive Leadership Pathways programme to develop future leaders and strengthen succession planning, including NPQ pathways and a Trust-wide talent mapping exercise. A new HR and Payroll Portal will be launched to improve transparency, efficiency and staff experience, with all key HR documents integrated into the digital staff handbook.

Growth and Impact

The Trust will develop an LDLT Growth Strategy to define a sustainable, values-led approach to future expansion. This will include a Readiness Framework to ensure internal capacity and due diligence underpin any future onboarding decisions. Alongside this, LDLT will strengthen and evaluate its Professional Networks as a key mechanism for driving internal school improvement, with impact reporting shared with Heads, LACs and the Board.

Operational Effectiveness

A comprehensive Governance Development Programme will be delivered, including the spring governance review, refreshed documentation, targeted training and the publication of the digital Governance Handbook. A new Trust-wide Procurement Strategy will be introduced to strengthen compliance, value for money and financial sustainability. The LDLT Estates Strategy will begin implementation across all schools, alongside the development of a Trust-wide Climate Action Plan. The year will also see the launch and roll-out of the Digital Strategy 2025–28, including safe, ethical use of AI to reduce staff workload and support pupil engagement.

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Directors' Report (continued)



Expected Impact by the End of 2025/26

The Trust anticipates that by the end of the year:

- all children will benefit from improved teaching, curriculum planning and responsive assessment;
- subject leaders and teachers will have richer access to networks and shared resources;
- schools will be better supported to articulate their curriculum and vision for Ofsted and SIAMS;
- digital infrastructure and estates improvements will enhance learning environments; and
- improved HR, payroll, governance and compliance systems will free leaders to focus on delivering high-quality education.

Funds Held as Custodian Trustee on Behalf of Others

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust and its Directors do not act as the custodian Trustees of any other charity.

Disclosure of information to auditors

Insofar as the Directors are aware:

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

The Directors' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of Directors, as the company Directors, on 12/12/2025 GMT and signed on the board's behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Foskett', is written over a horizontal line.

Signer ID: 2UABP7HJKE...

Peter Foskett

Chair of Directors

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Governance Statement



Scope of Responsibility

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

As Directors, we have reviewed and taken account of the guidance in DfE's [Governance Handbook](#) and [competency framework for governance](#).

The Board of Directors has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive, 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 Leeds Diocesan Learning 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.

Governance

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

Director	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
P Foskett (Chair)	5	6
A Cox (Vice-Chair)	6	6
G Park	6	6
R Graham	3	6
C Owen	6	6
A Lancashire (resigned 3 September 2025)	3	6
Rev'd S Hanscombe	6	6
S McGreavy (resigned 4 July 2025)	3	5
A Eastwood (appointed 20 January 2025)	2	3

There has been one appointment and one resignation during the year with all other Directors completing the full year in post.

The six Board meetings with the support of the three Finance and Resource committee meetings, three Audit and Risk committee meetings, three Curriculum and Standards meetings and two Estates committee meetings, have given the scope and coverage over the academic year to give the Board comfort they have adhered to their roles and responsibilities.

The Trust is aware of the potential conflicts of interest and puts in place mechanisms to counter these where they apply. All Directors and LAC governors complete declaration of interests and the Trust manages any potential conflicts with a statement of assurance, an openness to an 'at-cost' working model and the transparency of an open book relationship. These processes are carried out and maintained for all finance staff Members, all senior management roles and all LAC governors, Directors and Members.

Looking ahead, the Board has identified the need for an external governance review during the 2025/26 academic year. This reflects the Trust's commitment to continually strengthening the quality, transparency and effectiveness of its governance. The review will evaluate governance structures, committee arrangements, reporting flows, behaviours, levels of challenge, and alignment with both DfE Academy Trust Governance Framework expectations and Church of England governance principles. It will also consider the growing scale and maturity of the Trust and ensure governance is fit for purpose for the next phase of strategic delivery. Insights from the review will inform a refreshed governance development programme, enhance Board and LAC effectiveness, and ensure the Trust continues to operate with the highest standards of ethical leadership and accountability.

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Governance Statement



Finance and Resources Committee

The Finance and Resources committee is a committee of the main Board of Directors. Its purpose is to evaluate the financial performance of the organisation and ensure financial resources are used appropriately and in accordance with the objectives of the organisation. It will ensure that appropriate advice and recommendations are made to the Board to ensure the ongoing viability of the organisation occurs.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Director	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
G Park (Chair)	3	3
A Cox (Vice-Chair)	3	3
C Owen	3	3

Audit and Risk Committee

The Audit and Risk committee is a committee of the main Board of Directors. It is a requirement of the 'Academy Trust Handbook', that Trusts with an annual income of less than £50 million, must either have a dedicated Audit and Risk committee or can combine it with another committee, such as finance. The LDLT Audit and Risk committee advises on the adequacy of financial and other controls and risk management arrangements in the Trust, and it directs a programme of internal scrutiny and consider the results and quality of any external audit.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Director	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
A Cox (Chair)	3	3
G Park (Vice-Chair)	3	3
C Owen	3	3

Curriculum and Standards Committee

The Curriculum and Standards committee is a committee of the main Board of Directors. The committee is responsible for ensuring that standards and Christian values across the MAT, especially in regard to pupils and learning, are set, achieved and maintained. It advises the Board on matters relating to the Trust's curriculum, quality and standards and Christian life.

During the year Sofia McGreavy resigned from her position on the Board and Andrew Eastwood joined the Board and Curriculum committee. Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Director	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
A Lancashire (Chair)	2	3
S McGreavy (resigned 4 July 2025)	1	3
R Graham	3	3
S Hanscombe	1	3
A Eastwood (appointed 20 January 2025)	2	2

Estates Committee

The Estates committee is a committee of the main Board of Directors and was formed during the spring term of this academic year. The Estates Committee provides strategic oversight of the Trust's estate, ensuring that all school buildings are safe, compliant and conducive to high-quality learning. The committee monitors progress against the Trust's Estates Strategy, reviews compliance with statutory health and safety requirements, and oversees capital investment, including the planning and delivery of major projects. It scrutinises asset management plans, evaluates estates-related risks, and ensures that investment decisions are aligned with the Trust's long-term priorities for sustainability, accessibility and value for money. Through this work, the committee supports the Board in fulfilling its responsibilities for the stewardship and development of the Trust's physical assets.

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Governance Statement



Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Director	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
R Graham (Chair)	2	2
C Owen (Vice-Chair)	2	2

Review of Value for Money

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

The Accounting Officer considers how the Academy Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic period, and reports to the Board of Directors where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data or by using a framework where appropriate.

During the period, the Accounting Officer for the Academy Trust has delivered improved value for money by:

- Strengthening central systems and reducing reliance on external providers through the successful in-house delivery of governance, clerking, cleaning and estates management. Bringing these services in-house has enabled the Trust to gain tighter control over quality, consistency and cost, reducing overheads and ensuring that expenditure directly supports school priorities.
- Introducing a Trust-wide staff absence protection scheme, replacing external insurance policies which historically returned less than 50% of premiums paid. Under the new in-house model, schools contributed to a central pooled fund and received significantly higher reimbursement levels than previously possible. The scheme also generated a surplus of £51k, which will be carried forward to protect school budgets in future years, ensuring better long-term financial sustainability.
- Implementing Trust-wide procurement processes that ensure consistent, compliant and cost-effective purchasing, securing economies of scale and reducing administrative burdens across schools.
- Migrating all schools to a unified Google platform and new budgeting software, which has delivered substantial operational efficiencies. Google Workspace has significantly reduced day-to-day running costs through lower licensing fees, reduced hardware requirements, and extended device lifespan. Cloud-based functionality has improved collaboration, streamlined communication, and minimised the need for expensive on-site servers and local IT infrastructure. These changes have collectively strengthened financial oversight and improved the overall value of ICT expenditure.
- Delivering value through improved estates management, including the introduction of new estates compliance software enabling proactive servicing, planned maintenance and audit-ready reporting. This has been supported by £1.59m in capital investment across several schools, including successful CIF projects for heating, roofing and fire safety. Resources were prioritised to areas of highest need, resulting in measurable improvements to safety, efficiency and the learning environment.
- Supporting structural and organisational efficiencies, including the consolidation of the Holy Trinity schools into a single primary phase, delivering long-term financial, educational and community benefits. Additionally, North Stainley was formally brought into the Ripon Rural Group, ensuring greater alignment of overheads, streamlined leadership and governance arrangements, and improved operational efficiency across the cluster.
- Rolling out a standardised Headteacher's Report across all schools, reducing leadership time spent on administrative tasks and enabling senior leaders to focus more on teaching, learning and strategic improvement.
- Strengthening central oversight through enhanced benchmarking and standardised reporting, enabling early identification of emerging financial risks and ensuring that resources are deployed effectively to support school improvement.
- Collectively, these actions have enabled the Trust to maximise the educational impact of public funds, secure significant efficiencies, and demonstrate prudent stewardship on behalf of its schools and wider communities.

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Governance Statement



The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness.

The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievements of the Academy Trust policies, aims and objectives. This is aimed 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 at Leeds Diocesan Learning 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 Academy Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Directors is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the year ended 31 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 Risk and Control Framework

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

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

The Board of Directors have considered the need for a specific internal scrutiny function and appointed Veritau as internal auditor, who report directly to the audit and risk committee. The audit and risk committee commissioned an internal scrutiny programme which was carried out during the academic year. The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial and other matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy Trust's financial and other systems.

Veritau carried out three visits during the year to cover the following areas:

- Safeguarding, to provide assurance to management that procedures and controls within the system will ensure that:
 - Suitable safeguarding policies and frameworks are in place across the trust, and these are in line with statutory requirements.
 - Training and guidance policies are provided to staff and the level and frequency to which this is undertaken is appropriate to specific roles and responsibilities.
 - Processes for safer recruitment, as outlined in the Department for Education's statutory guidance, are followed consistently.
- Cyber Security, to provide assurance to management that procedures and controls within the system will ensure that:
 - Adequate network security measures are in place to protect against unauthorised access, intrusion, and other cyber threats.
 - Access controls are properly configured, monitored, and authorised, ensuring that only legitimate users have appropriate access to systems and data.

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Governance Statement



- Patch management and vulnerability management controls are effective, ensuring that operating systems, software, and devices are regularly updated to prevent exploitation of known security flaws.
- Data security measures are robust and effectively implemented, including encryption of sensitive information, secure backup storage, and data loss prevention controls to protect against unauthorised access, corruption, or loss.
- Purchasing and budget management, to provide assurance to management that procedures and controls within the system will ensure that:
 - Any procurement is carried out in line with the Trust's policies and procedures.
 - The correct documentation is sought and retained to evidence high value expenditure.
 - Payments made to creditors are done so appropriately, promptly and in line with authorisation limits set.
 - Any payments made using procurement cards are done so appropriately and in line with the Trust's policies and procedures.
 - Schools are reviewing the budgetary implications of purchases before committing to expenditure.

Review of Effectiveness

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

- the work of the internal auditor
- the work of the external auditor
- correspondence from DfE
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process or the school resource management self-assessment tool
- the school resource management advisor (SRMA) visit
- the work of the executive managers within the Academy 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 the Board and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Conclusion

Based on the advice of the Audit and Risk Committee and the Accounting Officer, the Board of Directors 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 Directors on 12/12/2025 GMT and signed on its behalf by:

Signer ID: 2UABP7HJKE...

Peter Foscett
Director

Signer ID: OK4OJW0VD7...

Richard Noake
Accounting Officer

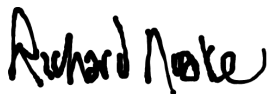
Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Statement on regularity, propriety and compliance

As Accounting Officer of Leeds Diocesan Learning 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 Directors are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the 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 Directors and DfE.



Signer ID: OK4OJW0VD7...

Richard Noake
Accounting Officer

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Statement of Directors' Responsibilities

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

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


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

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

The Directors 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 ESFA/DfE have been applied for the purposes intended.

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Directors on 12/12/2025 GMT and signed on its behalf by:



Signer ID: 2UABP7HJKE...

P Foskett

Director

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust



Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 August 2025, which comprise the consolidated statement of financial activities, the consolidated balance sheet, the company balance sheet, the consolidated statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2025, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the 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 charitable company'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 Directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

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

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 Directors' report, which includes the strategic report and the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the Directors' report included within the trustees' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust



Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report and the directors' report included within the Directors' report.

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

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

Responsibilities of Directors

As explained more fully in the Directors' responsibilities statement, 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 Directors 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 Directors are responsible for assessing the charitable company'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 Directors either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

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

- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the academy trust through discussions with management, and from our knowledge and experience of the sector;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the accounts or the operations of the academy trust, including the Charities Act 2011 and the guidance issued by the DFE;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting correspondence with the regulators; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit:

We assessed the susceptibility of the academy trust's accounts to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust



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

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the FRC's website at:

www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities

This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

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

Lesley Kendrew (Senior statutory auditor)

For and on behalf of

BHP LLP

New Chartford House
Centurion Way
Cleckheaton
Bradford
West Yorkshire
BD19 3QB

Date: 15/12/2025 GMT

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 23 September 2025 and further to the requirements of the Department for Education (DfE) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust during the year 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust and DfE in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust and DfE 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 Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust and DfE, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust's Accounting Officer and the reporting accountant

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 24 August 2022 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2024, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Approach

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

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

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

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

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency

The work undertaken to draw our conclusions includes:

- Detailed testing on a sample basis to assess the nature of expenditure and whether funds have been used appropriately;
- Review of the academy trust's internal financial procedures to ensure that controls are in place to prevent or identify regularity issues;
- Ensure that DFE approval has been obtained for relevant transactions;
- Discussions with Trustees, Senior Leadership Team and the Accounting Officer throughout the audit process to ensure that all regularity threats have been addressed.

Conclusion

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



Signer ID: S71882WVPX
Leslie Kendrew (Reporting Accountant)

BHP LLP

New Chartford House
Centurion Way
Cleckheaton
Bradford
West Yorkshire
BD19 3QB

Date: 15/12/2025 GMT

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2025 (including Income and Expenditure Account)



	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2024/25 Total £	2023/24 Total £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	2	-	579,420	1,121,963	1,701,383	1,287,793
Transferred in on conversion	2	-	-	-	-	586,424
Investments	4	2,344	-	-	2,344	112
Charitable activities:						
Funding for the academy trust's educational operations	3	-	15,307,753	-	15,307,753	10,042,311
Other trading activities	5	-	571,997	-	571,997	419,544
Total		2,344	16,459,170	1,121,963	17,583,477	12,336,184
Expenditure on:						
Academy trust educational operations	6	-	16,137,498	140,394	16,277,892	10,887,157
Total		-	16,137,498	140,394	16,277,892	10,887,157
Net income / (expenditure)		2,344	321,672	981,569	1,305,585	1,449,027
Transfers between funds	17	-	(277,175)	277,175	-	-
Other recognised gains / (losses):						
Actuarial (losses) / gains on defined benefit pension schemes	25	-	(45,000)	-	(45,000)	71,000
Net movement in funds		2,344	(503)	1,258,744	1,260,585	1,520,027
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		840,083	82,827	1,749,691	2,672,601	1,152,574
Total funds carried forward		842,427	82,324	3,008,435	3,933,186	2,672,601

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2024 (including Income and Expenditure Account)



	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2023/24 Total £	2022/23 Total £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	2	-	457,500	830,293	1,287,793	623,784
Transferred in on conversion	2	538,505	(86,000)	133,919	586,424	451,578
Investments	4	112	-	-	112	52
Charitable activities:						
Funding for the academy trust's educational operations	3	-	10,042,311	-	10,042,311	5,409,462
Other trading activities	5	-	419,544	-	419,544	157,114
Total		538,617	10,833,355	964,212	12,336,184	6,641,990
Expenditure on:						
Academy trust educational operations	6	-	10,855,347	31,810	10,887,157	5,867,609
Total		-	10,855,347	31,810	10,887,157	5,867,609
Net income / (expenditure)		538,617	(21,992)	932,402	1,449,027	774,381
Transfers between funds	17	-	(88,908)	88,908	-	-
Other recognised gains / (losses):						
Actuarial (losses) / gains on defined benefit pension schemes	25	-	71,000	-	71,000	235,000
Net movement in funds		538,617	(39,900)	1,021,310	1,520,027	1,009,381
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		301,466	122,727	728,381	1,152,574	143,193
Total funds carried forward		840,083	82,827	1,749,691	2,672,601	1,152,574

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2025



Company Number 13687278

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	2,974,386	1,521,573
Current assets			
Debtors	14	854,209	1,069,056
Cash at bank and in hand		1,958,140	1,612,580
		<u>2,812,349</u>	<u>2,681,636</u>
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	15	(1,827,039)	(1,503,621)
Net current assets		<u>985,310</u>	<u>1,178,015</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>3,959,696</u>	<u>2,699,588</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	16	(26,510)	(26,987)
Net assets excluding pension liability		<u>3,933,186</u>	<u>2,672,601</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	25	-	-
Total net assets		<u>3,933,186</u>	<u>2,672,601</u>
Funds of the academy trust:			
Restricted funds	17		
Restricted fixed asset fund		3,008,435	1,749,691
Restricted general fund		82,324	82,827
Restricted pension reserve		-	-
Total restricted funds		<u>3,090,759</u>	<u>1,832,518</u>
Unrestricted general funds	17	<u>842,427</u>	<u>840,083</u>
Total funds		<u>3,933,186</u>	<u>2,672,601</u>

The financial statements on pages 35 to 63 were approved by the Directors and authorised for issue on 12/12/2025 GMT and are signed on their behalf by

P. Fiskett
Director

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Statement of Cash Flows for the period ended 31 August 2025



	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	21	814,461	1,206,505
Cash flows from investing activities	22	(468,901)	(125,492)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		345,560	1,081,013
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2024		1,612,580	531,567
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2025	23	1,958,140	1,612,580

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Accounting policies

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

The Academy Trust is a limited company incorporated in England and Wales and limited by guarantee. Its registered office is the Parkhill Business Centre, Walton Road, Wetherby, West Yorkshire, LS22 5DZ.

Basis of Preparation

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

Going Concern

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 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 financial statements and have concluded that the Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the Academy Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

At 31 August 2025 the Academy Trust had unrestricted reserves of £842,427 (2024: £840,083) and restricted reserves (excluding pension reserve and restricted fixed assets) of £82,324 (2024: £82,827).

The academy has set a balanced budget for 2025/26. The Directors are not aware of any material uncertainties which would cast doubt on the academy's ability to achieve a balanced budget.

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

Grants

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

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the 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.

Donations

Donations are recognised on a receivable basis (where there are no performance-related conditions) where the receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Other Income

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

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Accounting policies (continued)

Transfer on conversion

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

Sponsorship income

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

Expenditure

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Charitable Activities

These are costs incurred on the Academy Trust's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the Academy Trust apportioned to charitable activities.

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 requiring the continued use of the asset, the related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities and carried forward in the Balance Sheet.

Depreciation on the relevant assets is charged directly to the restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than freehold land and assets under construction, at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| • Leasehold buildings | 125 years |
| • Leasehold improvements | 5 - 50 years |
| • Furniture and equipment | 5 years |
| • Plant and machinery | 5 years |
| • Computer equipment | 3 years |
| • Motor vehicles | 25% reducing balance |

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use and reclassified to freehold or leasehold land and buildings. A review for impairment of a fixed asset is carried out if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of any fixed asset may not be recoverable. Shortfalls between the carrying value of fixed assets and their recoverable amounts are recognised as impairments. Impairment losses are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Accounting policies (continued)

Liabilities

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

Provisions

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

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

Leased assets

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

Financial Instruments

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

Financial assets – trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 14. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

Financial liabilities – trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 15. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instrument's 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.

Pension 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 multiemployer 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.

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Accounting policies (continued)

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.

Recognition of Pension Asset

Where the actuarial valuation shows a surplus of assets over liabilities, the Academy Trust does not recognise the surplus on the basis that it cannot recover the surplus through reduced contributions or refunds. Consequently, the net pension asset is presented as £nil in the financial statements.

Recognition of Pension Liability

The Trust recognises the net defined benefit liability arising from the scheme. This liability is calculated as the difference between the present value of the defined benefit obligations and the fair value of the scheme's assets as determined by the actuarial valuation.

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 funders where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

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

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 25, will impact on 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.

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

2. Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Restricted fixed asset funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Capital grants	-	-	1,121,963	1,121,963	830,293
Transferred in on conversion	-	-	-	-	586,424
Donation in respect of notional rent	-	547,000	-	547,000	363,000
Other donations	-	32,420	-	32,420	94,500
	-	579,420	1,121,963	1,701,383	1,874,217

Income from donations and capital grants was £1,701,383 (2024: £1,874,217) of which £nil (2024: £538,505) was unrestricted.

3. Funding for the academy trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
DfE / ESFA grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	10,997,739	10,997,739	7,356,306
Other DfE / ESFA grants				
Conversion Grants	-	-	-	175,000
Trust Capacity Funding	-	186,500	186,500	318,500
UIFSM	-	283,833	283,833	218,584
Pupil Premium	-	612,773	612,773	347,245
PE & Sports grant	-	242,340	242,340	180,771
Teacher's Pay Grant (TPAG)	-	165,622	165,622	75,804
Teacher's Pension (TPEG)	-	219,703	219,703	76,022
Core Schools Budget grant (CSBG)	-	385,709	385,709	-
Other DfE revenue grants	-	144,712	144,712	275,076
	-	13,238,931	13,238,931	9,023,308
Other Government grants				
Local authority grants	-	1,618,640	1,618,640	679,598
Other government grants	-	-	-	27,777
	-	1,618,640	1,618,640	707,375
Other income from the academy trust's educational operations	-	450,182	450,182	311,628
Total	-	15,307,753	15,307,753	10,042,311

Income for the Academy Trust's educational operations was £15,307,753 (2024: £10,042,311) of which £nil (2024: £nil) was unrestricted.

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

4. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Short term deposits	2,344	-	2,344	112
Total	2,344	-	2,344	112

Income from investment income was £2,344 (2024: £112) of which £2,344 (2024: £112) was unrestricted.

5. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Hire of facilities	-	37,205	37,205	9,590
Income from other charitable activities	-	534,792	534,792	409,954
Total	-	571,997	571,997	419,544

Income from other trading activities was £571,997 (2024: £419,544) of which £nil (2024: £nil) was unrestricted.

6. Expenditure

	Non-Pay Expenditure			Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
	Staff costs £	Premises £	Other costs £		
Academy's educational operations					
Direct costs	10,542,532	-	986,998	11,529,530	7,592,872
Allocated support costs	1,853,406	1,348,475	1,546,481	4,748,362	3,294,285
	12,395,938	1,348,475	2,533,479	16,277,892	10,887,157

Expenditure was £16,277,892 (2024: £10,887,157) of which £nil (2024: £nil) was unrestricted.

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

7. Net income / (expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) for the period includes:

	2025 £	2024 £
Operating lease rentals	25,289	22,035
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	140,395	31,810
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- audit	29,400	28,000
- tax return	1,800	1,675
- TPS audit	1,260	1,200

8. Charitable activities

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Direct costs – educational operations	11,529,530	7,592,872
Support costs – educational operations	4,748,362	3,294,285
	16,277,892	10,887,157

Expenditure on charitable activities was £16,277,892 (2024: £10,887,157) of which £nil (2024: £nil) was unrestricted.

	Educational operations £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Analysis of support costs			
Support staff costs	1,853,406	1,853,406	890,469
Depreciation	42,119	42,119	9,579
Technology costs	299,132	299,132	216,940
Premises costs	1,348,475	1,348,475	1,190,848
Legal costs - conversion	-	-	74,707
Legal costs - other	19,549	19,549	213,692
Other support costs	1,150,848	1,150,848	640,488
Governance costs	34,833	34,833	57,562
Total	4,748,362	4,748,362	3,294,285

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

9. Staff

Staff costs

Staff costs during the period were:

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Wages and salaries	8,948,167	5,665,507
Social security costs	968,548	524,979
Pension costs	2,132,518	1,277,056
	<u>12,049,233</u>	<u>7,467,542</u>

Agency staff costs	299,904	261,023
Staff restructuring costs	46,801	8,400
Seconded staff costs	-	29,200
	<u>12,395,938</u>	<u>7,766,165</u>

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Severance payments	32,405	-
Redundancy payments	14,396	8,400
	<u>46,801</u>	<u>8,400</u>

Staff severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs is 1 severance payment totalling £32,405 (2024: 0 totalling £nil). This was a statutory and contractual payment.

Staff numbers

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

	2025 No.	2024 No.
Teachers	110	73
Administration and support	233	156
Management	25	20
	<u>368</u>	<u>249</u>

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Higher paid staff

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

	2025 No.	2024 No.
£60,001 – £70,000	2	4
£70,001 – £80,000	6	3
£80,001 – £90,000	7	1
£90,001 – £100,000	0	0
£100,001 – £110,000	0	0
£110,001 – £120,000	1	0

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the Directors and the senior management team as listed on page 2. The total amount of key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £1,686,422 (2024: £1,034,891). The total amount paid to organisations in relation to the seconded key management personnel team was £nil (2024: £29,200).

10. Central services

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

- Finance support including all consolidation of statutory accounts
- Internal & External audit
- Financial systems and licencing
- Budget management software
- External safeguarding advice
- Education quality assurance
- Head and Chair network meetings and CPD
- Diocesan education service level agreements
- Policy development and compliance management
- Governance professional services
- Data protection support and advice
- School improvement support
- Academy conversion support including project management and TUPE
- HR professional advice
- HR administration SLA
- Payroll and pension administration
- Finance administration and monthly management accounts

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

The academy trust charges for these services at 5.5% of the school's General Annual Grants. The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Barwick-in-Elmet	54,412	26,130
Carleton Endowed	47,032	46,178
Christ Church	44,090	27,887
Dacre Braithwaite	30,068	27,811
*Ripon Rural	73,892	66,815
**Holy Trinity Schools	100,519	105,971
Roecliffe CofE Primary	23,710	22,942
Roundhay St John's	59,682	42,319
St Matthew's	108,778	36,795
St Peter's	76,298	6,723
Sutton in Craven	31,648	2,838
	650,129	412,409

*Ripon Rural is a group of three small Church of England primary schools, Fountains CE Primary School, Grewelthorpe CE Primary School and North Stainley CE Primary School, operating with shared budgets, leadership, administration and governance. These schools work collaboratively to find efficiencies within support and operational costs, maximising resources across the group.

**Holy Trinity CE Infants & Nursery School and Holy Trinity CE Junior School also operate with one shared budget, governance structure and staffing model. The two schools formally amalgamated to form a single primary school with effect from 1 September 2025.

11. Related Party Transactions – Directors' remuneration and expenses

No Directors were paid remuneration or received other benefits from an employment with the Academy Trust in the current year or in the year ended 31 August 2024.

During the year ended 31 August 2025, travel and subsistence expenses totalling £nil were reimbursed or paid directly to 0 Directors (2024: £103 to 2 Directors).

Other related party transactions involving the Directors are set out in note 26.

12. Directors' and officers' insurance

The Trust has opted into the Department of Education's Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA) from 1 September 2024, an alternative to insurance where UK government funds cover losses that arise.

This scheme protects Directors and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business, and provides cover up to £10,000,000. It is not possible to quantify the Directors and officer indemnity element from the overall cost of the RPA scheme.

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

13. Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold land and buildings £	Leasehold improvements £	Plant and machinery £	Furniture and Equipment £	Computer equipment £	Motor Vehicles £	Total £
Cost							
At 1 September 2024	375,000	952,779	125,294	7,096	90,689	7,500	1,558,358
Additions	-	1,519,699	31,297	25,787	16,425	-	1,593,208
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2025	375,000	2,472,478	156,591	32,883	107,114	7,500	3,151,566
Depreciation							
At 1 September 2024	5,760	5,030	9,024	1,237	15,421	313	36,785
Charged in year	3,000	68,845	28,710	4,916	33,127	1,797	140,395
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2025	8,760	73,875	37,734	6,153	48,548	2,110	177,180
Net book values							
At 31 August 2024	369,240	947,749	116,270	5,859	75,268	7,187	1,521,573
At 31 August 2025	366,240	2,398,603	118,857	26,730	58,566	5,390	2,974,386

Where the land and buildings are made available to the Trust under a Church Supplemental Agreement, they are recognised as being occupied on similar terms as an operating lease. Such agreements give the Trustees of the premises the right to give notice (2 years) and in effect make a donation committed for the remainder of the notice period. These donations by the site Trustees are recognised on a time basis relative to the period for which a notional rent is recognised (see note 2).

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

14. Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	53,823	15,087
VAT recoverable	139,753	134,116
Prepayments and accrued income	659,911	919,853
Other debtors	722	-
	854,209	1,069,056

15. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	820,997	313,389
Other taxation and social security	220,774	167,577
Other creditors	13,347	20,630
Accruals and deferred income	771,921	1,002,025
	1,827,039	1,503,621
Deferred income at 1 September 2024	207,113	113,295
Released from previous periods	(207,113)	(113,295)
Resources deferred in the year	232,460	207,113
Deferred income at 31 August 2025	232,460	207,113

Deferred income relates to grants received that relate to the year ended August 2026, such as Universal Infant Free School Meals. The period ended 31 August 2024 also included unspent National Tutoring grants that were clawed back from the DfE.

16. Creditors: amounts falling due in greater than one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Loans	26,510	26,987
	26,510	26,987

In 23/24 the Trust requested a loan from the Department for Education (DfE) under the terms and conditions of the Conditions Improvement Fund (CIF) scheme. This loan was secured to support essential heating refurbishment works at Carleton Endowed CE Primary School.

The total amount of the loan is £33,137, all of which remains outstanding as of 31 August 2025. The loan is repayable in equal instalments through an abatement of the GAG revenue funding received from the DfE. Interest is charged on the loan at Public Works Loan Board (PWLb) rates of interest.

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

17. Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2025 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	82,827	10,997,739	(10,721,067)	(277,175)	82,324
Trust Capacity Funding	-	186,500	(186,500)	-	-
UIFSM	-	283,833	(283,833)	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	612,773	(612,773)	-	-
PE & Sports grant	-	242,340	(242,340)	-	-
Teacher's Pay Grant (TPAG)	-	165,622	(165,622)	-	-
Teacher's Pension (TPECG)	-	219,703	(219,703)	-	-
Core Schools Budget grant (CSBG)	-	385,709	(385,709)	-	-
Other DfE revenue grants	-	144,712	(144,712)	-	-
Local authority grants	-	1,618,640	(1,618,640)	-	-
Donations	-	579,420	(579,420)	-	-
Other income	-	1,022,179	(1,022,179)	-	-
Pension reserve	-	-	45,000	(45,000)	-
	82,827	16,459,170	(16,137,498)	(322,175)	82,324
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Transfer on conversion	487,426	-	(7,323)	(93,083)	387,020
DfE Group Capital grants	1,262,265	1,121,963	(133,071)	370,258	2,621,415
	1,749,691	1,121,963	(140,394)	277,175	3,008,435
Total restricted funds	1,832,518	17,581,133	(16,277,892)	(45,000)	3,090,759
Total unrestricted funds	840,083	2,344	-	-	842,427
Total funds	2,672,601	17,583,477	(16,277,892)	(45,000)	3,933,186

Transfers Between Funds

During the year, a transfer of £277,175 was made from restricted general funds to restricted fixed asset funds. This represents the Trust's revenue contributions towards capital projects undertaken during the period and reflects the appropriate allocation of costs relating to fixed asset additions.

In addition, a transfer of £93,083 was made between restricted fixed asset funds. This relates to Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) balances inherited on conversion which have now been reclassified and moved into the Trust's general restricted fixed asset fund to ensure alignment with ongoing capital planning and reporting requirements.

These transfers are consistent with the purpose of each fund and ensure expenditure and assets are correctly reflected in line with the Charities SORP and the Academies Accounts Direction.

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

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

Restricted funds

General Annual Grant (GAG) – The Academy Trust's main revenue funding is received from the DfE. LDLT was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG it could carry forward at 31 August 2025.

Sponsorship Funding – Funding to support the conversion and improvement costs associated with Carleton Endowed Primary School, as a sponsored academy.

Conversion grants – Funding to support the costs incurred to transfer schools into the Academy Trust.

Trust Capacity Funding – Funding to provide additional capacity to the Trust as it grows and welcomes additional academies.

UIFSM (Universal Infant Free School Meals) – These funds relate to providing free school meals to all pupils in reception, year 1, and year 2.

Pupil Premium - Funding to improve educational outcomes for disadvantaged pupils.

PE & Sports grant - Funding to make additional and sustainable improvements to the provision of PE, sport and physical activity for the benefit of all primary-aged pupils to encourage the development of healthy, active lifestyles.

Teacher's Pay Grant (TPAG) - The grant received from the DfE to fund part of the Teacher Pay Increase from September 2023.

Teacher's Pension (TPECG) - The grant received from the DfE to fund the increase in Teacher Pension Contributions from 23.68% to 28.68% from April 2024.

Core Schools Budget grant (CSBG) - The grant received from the DfE to support schools with rising operational costs, including inflationary pressures and nationally agreed increases in support staff pay, ensuring schools can continue to deliver their core educational provision.

Other DfE revenue grants - The funds relate to other ESFA/DfE grants received to carry out objectives of the schools.

Local authority grants – Funding from the Local Authority to support early years pupils, pupils with special educational needs and other education related grants.

Other government grants – Funding from other government agencies to support the charitable objectives of the schools.

Donations and other income – General donations and monies received from non-government organisations to support with the objectives of the Trust.

Restricted fixed asset funds – Funds received for capital improvement projects and allocated for the tangible fixed assets of the trust.

Unrestricted general funds

Funds available to spend for the general purposes of the Academy Trust.

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

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

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	82,827	7,356,306	(7,305,298)	(88,908)	82,827
Sponsorship Funding	-	-	(15,000)	-	-
Conversion grants	-	175,000	(175,000)	-	-
Trust Capacity Funding	-	318,500	(318,500)	-	-
UIFSM	-	218,584	(218,584)	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	347,245	(347,245)	-	-
PE & Sports grant	-	180,771	(180,771)	-	-
Teacher's Pay Grant (TPAG)	-	75,804	(75,804)	-	-
Teacher's Pension (TPECG)	-	76,022	(76,022)	-	-
Other DfE revenue grants	-	275,076	(275,076)	-	-
Local authority grants	-	679,598	(679,598)	-	-
Other government grants	-	27,777	(27,777)	-	-
Donations	-	457,500	(457,500)	-	-
Other income	-	731,172	(731,172)	-	-
Pension reserve	-	(86,000)	28,000	71,000	-
	82,827	10,833,355	(10,855,347)	(17,908)	82,827
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Transfer on conversion	487,426	133,919	(3,673)	-	487,426
DfE Group Capital grants	1,262,265	830,293	(28,137)	88,908	1,262,265
	1,749,691	964,212	(31,810)	88,908	1,749,691
Total restricted funds	1,832,518	11,797,567	(10,887,157)	71,000	1,832,518
Total unrestricted funds	840,083	538,617	-	-	840,083
Total funds	2,672,601	12,336,184	(10,887,157)	71,000	2,672,601

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2025 were allocated as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Barwick-in-Elmet	197,725	125,458
Carleton Endowed	28,492	35
Christ Church	68,017	106,907
Dacre Braithwaite	89,517	60,815
Ripon Rural	99,854	200,540
Holy Trinity Federation	(76,433)	33,599
Roecliffe	(39,399)	(9,918)
Roundhay St John's	66,923	40,239
St Matthew's	979	3,910
St Peter's	267,665	132,492
Sutton-in-Craven	(27,722)	2,652
Staff absence fund	51,370	-
Central services	197,763	226,181
Total before fixed assets and pension reserve	924,751	922,910
Restricted fixed asset fund	3,008,435	1,749,691
Pension reserve	-	-
Total	3,933,186	2,672,601

Roecliffe CE Primary School

Roecliffe has faced ongoing financial challenges since conversion. The school converted with an inherited deficit and a structure that was not financially sustainable for its pupil numbers. While we have restructured to operate on a three-class model, this has not been sufficient to restore balance due to the higher staffing demands required for mixed-age teaching.

As a small rural school, Roecliffe bears fixed overheads that are disproportionate to its size. Without access to sparsity funding, the school continues to experience significant financial pressure.

A revised staffing model has been implemented from September 2025 to support a return to financial sustainability, with an Executive Headteacher arrangement supporting Roecliffe and a nearby school.

Holy Trinity Federation (Holy Trinity CE Primary School from 1 September 2025)

The deficit position for Holy Trinity is a timing-related issue linked to the strategic amalgamation of the Infant and Junior schools to form a new primary school from September 2025. The 2025/26 budget includes a balanced financial plan, with provision for an investment of £136,000 into the amalgamation project. This investment covered the site reconfiguration, a new modular build providing two additional classrooms, and a contribution toward a Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) fire safety project.

Although the project was completed by the end of August 2025 to ensure the new school could open in September, the associated expenditure fell into the 2024/25 financial year. This timing mismatch temporarily placed the school in deficit, but this is expected to resolve in 2025/26 when the amalgamated budget comes into effect.

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Sutton CE Primary School

In the Autumn term 2024, Sutton identified significant structural issues in its largest classroom after detecting an unusual odour. Subsequent investigations revealed extensive rot in the flooring, resulting in the classroom being condemned. The required remedial works included replacement of floor joists, full redecoration, rewiring, heating system updates, and roof repairs, costing £87,134 in total.

Although the July 2024 condition survey reported the classroom in sound condition, the school's insurance claim was unsuccessful. An application for Urgent Capital Support (UCS) funding was made, but only a DfE loan was approved, leaving no access to alternative capital grant funding. This has resulted in a significant financial strain, pushing the school into an overall deficit.

Sutton will implement a deficit recovery plan over the next 2–3 years, which minimises the impact on educational provision and ensures the school remains adequately resourced for pupils during the recovery period.

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs (excluding depreciation) £	2024/25 Total £	2023/24 Total £
Barwick-in-Elmet	928,610	73,782	91,639	251,733	1,345,764	645,915
Carleton Endowed	728,061	54,029	41,179	189,351	1,012,620	1,081,149
Christ Church	694,476	52,096	56,058	166,118	968,748	609,876
Dacre Braithwaite	374,339	47,115	52,242	129,201	602,897	574,318
Ripon Rural	1,095,887	112,864	121,019	302,883	1,632,653	1,199,125
Holy Trinity Federation	1,406,658	254,824	84,702	484,140	2,230,324	2,354,144
Roecliffe	366,475	23,825	38,012	110,420	538,732	556,161
Roundhay St John's	1,051,961	225,270	54,838	280,142	1,612,211	1,200,896
St Matthew's	1,713,862	191,460	111,852	419,811	2,436,985	979,787
St Peter's	1,499,107	207,833	58,009	346,562	2,111,511	340,611
Sutton-in-Craven	505,335	53,836	30,659	95,538	685,368	119,973
Central services	157,704	576,531	34,267	191,183	959,685	843,159
	10,522,475	1,873,465	774,476	2,967,082	16,137,498	10,855,347
2023/24	6,857,697	908,469	589,560	2,499,621	10,855,347	5,862,634

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

18. Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2025 are represented by:

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted general funds £	Restricted fixed asset funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	2,974,386	2,974,386
Current assets	842,427	1,844,403	125,519	2,812,349
Current liabilities	-	(1,762,079)	(64,960)	(1,827,039)
Non-current liabilities	-	-	(26,510)	(26,510)
Pension scheme liability	-	-	-	-
Total net assets	842,427	82,324	3,008,435	3,933,186

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

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted general funds £	Restricted fixed asset funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	1,521,573	1,521,573
Current assets	840,083	1,582,058	259,495	2,681,636
Current liabilities	-	(1,497,346)	(6,275)	(1,503,621)
Non-current liabilities	-	(1,885)	(25,102)	(26,987)
Pension scheme liability	-	-	-	-
Total net assets	840,083	82,827	1,749,691	2,672,601

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

19. Capital commitments

	2025 £	2024 £
Contracted for, but not provided in the financial statements	221,012	412,648

At 31 August 2025, LDLT was committed to the safeguarding project at Roecliffe CE Primary School. This should have taken place during the year but has been delayed due to issues with planning permission as the building is listed. Obtaining planning consent and agreement from the local neighbourhood is taking longer than anticipated but the project is expected to complete in 2025/26.

In 2023/24 the commitments related to the roof replacement project at Grewelthorpe CE Primary school. The work was delayed as we awaited the results of an ecology survey. The project was completed during the Easter break 2025.

The academy trust anticipates funding these commitments through revenue reserves and CIF grants from the DfE.

20. Long-term commitments, including operating leases

Operating leases

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

	2025 £	2024 £
Amounts due within one year	23,745	23,979
Amounts due between one and five years	58,273	66,735
Amounts due after five years	78,669	90,273
	160,687	180,987

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Notes to the Financial Statements

21. Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Net incoming resources before revaluations	1,305,585	1,449,027
Depreciation on tangible fixed assets	140,395	31,810
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(1,121,963)	(830,293)
Interest receivable	(2,344)	(112)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	(61,000)	(21,000)
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	16,000	(7,000)
Defined benefit scheme obligation inherited	-	86,000
Decrease / (increase) in debtors	214,847	(406,769)
Increase in creditors	322,941	945,678
Fixed assets donated on conversion	-	(40,836)
Net cash inflow from operating activities	<u>814,461</u>	<u>1,206,505</u>

22. Cash flows from investing activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	2,344	112
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(1,593,208)	(955,897)
Capital grants from DfE group	1,121,963	830,293
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(468,901)</u>	<u>(125,492)</u>

23. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>1,958,140</u>	<u>1,612,580</u>
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>1,958,140</u>	<u>1,612,580</u>

24. Member's liability

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

Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

25. Pension and similar obligations

The Academy Trust's employees belong to three principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, and NEST Pension Scheme for some cleaning and caretaking staff who TUPE'd across to the Trust during the year. The Local Government Pension Schemes are managed by the North Yorkshire Pension Fund and West Yorkshire Pension Fund. Both the TPS and LGPS schemes 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 2025.

There were no outstanding or prepaid contributions at either the beginning or the 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 Academy Trusts. All teachers have the option to opt-out of the TPS following enrolment.

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to 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 26 October 2023. The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- employer contribution rates set at 28.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy)
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £262,000 million and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222,200 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £39,800 million

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £1,504,191 (2024: £886,782).

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 has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The Academy Trust has set out above the information available on the scheme.

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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 31 August 2025 was £871,000 (2024: £549,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £652,000 (2024: £414,000) and employees' contributions totalled £219,000 (2024: £135,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are between 14.8 and 18.3 per cent for employers and between 5.5% and 12.5% for employees.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of 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 and on 21 July 2022, the Department for Education reaffirmed its commitment to the guarantee, with a parliamentary minute published on GOV.UK.

The Trust operates within two local authority pension schemes. The North Yorkshire Pension Fund and the West Yorkshire Pension Fund. In accordance with FRS102, the disclosures have been grouped in the notes below. The same actuary was used for both the North Yorkshire Pension Fund and the West Yorkshire Pension Fund and therefore the key assumptions are the same. The mortality assumptions vary between scheme as they are based on the members within each fund.

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2025	2024
Rate of increase in salaries	3.75%	3.75%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/ inflation	2.50%	2.50%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	6.05%	4.90%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.50%	2.50%

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

North Yorkshire Pension Fund

	2025	2024
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	22.2	21.8
Females	24.6	24.4
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	22.8	22.4
Females	25.3	25.2

West Yorkshire Pension Fund

	2025	2024
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	21.2	20.8
Females	24.2	24.0
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	22.1	21.7
Females	24.9	24.7

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Sensitivity analysis

	2025	2024
	£000	£000
Discount rate +0.1%	(95)	(109)
Discount rate -0.1%	95	115
Mortality assumption – 1 year increase	(112)	(138)
Mortality assumption – 1 year decrease	109	138
CPI rate +0.1%	9	9
CPI rate -0.1%	(9)	(9)

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

	2025	2024
	£000	£000
Equities	4,559	3,821
Government bonds	861	570
Corporate bonds	369	300
Multi asset credit	141	118
Property	275	224
Cash and other liquid assets	159	154
Other	659	490
Total market value of assets	7,023	5,677

The actual return on scheme assets was £561,000 (2024: £307,000).

Amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities

	2025	2024
	£000	£000
Current service cost	635	393
Interest cost	(28)	(12)
Administration expenses	12	5
Total amount recognised in the SOFA	619	386

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

	2025	2024
	£000	£000
At 1 September	5,432	1,198
Conversion of Academy Trusts	-	3,726
Current service cost	635	393
Interest cost	270	141
Employee contributions	219	135
Actuarial (gain)/ loss	(1,378)	(136)
Benefits paid	(86)	(25)
At 31 August	5,092	5,432

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

	2025	2024
	£000	£000
At 1 September	5,677	1,185
Conversion of Academy Trusts	-	3,661
Interest income	298	148
Remeasurement losses on assets	263	159
Employer contributions	652	414
Employee contributions	219	135
Benefits paid	(86)	(25)
At 31 August	7,023	5,677

NEST Pension Scheme

A number of cleaning staff transferred into the Trust during the year as part of the in-house cleaning provision. These staff were members of the NEST pension scheme at the point of transfer and were given the option to join the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) in line with TUPE requirements. Some of the affected staff elected to remain in the NEST scheme. Employer contributions to NEST during the year totalled £403, and the scheme continues to operate as a defined contribution arrangement with no outstanding or accrued liabilities for the Trust beyond these contributions.

26. Related party transactions

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

During the period the Academy Trust made the following related party transactions:

Leeds Diocesan Board of Finance

Three of the Members of LDLT are Directors of Leeds Diocesan Board of Finance. During the year, Leeds Diocesan Board of Finance donated a grant to LDLT totalling £60,013 to support school improvement at Carleton Endowed CE Primary School. In 2024, they donated £90,000 as a contribution to the setup costs and growth strategy of the Academy Trust.

During the year, the Academy Trust reimbursed the Leeds Diocesan Board of Finance, at cost, £nil (2024: £29,200) relating to salary, pension contributions and national insurance for the duties performed by the Chief Executive Officer, Director of Schools and administrative staff. The Academy Trust also reimbursed the Leeds Diocesan Board of Finance, at cost, £nil (2024: £1,926) relating to desk rental of the central team and £nil (2024: £12,000) relating to conversion costs for the incoming schools. The Academy Trust also incurred costs totalling £26,837 (2024: £5,559) in relation to Diocesan education support received and training for school leaders. The Academy Trust also incurred costs totalling £305 for room hire for a training session in 2024/25.

At the balance sheet date, the amount due to the Leeds Diocesan Board of Finance was £95 (2024: £5).

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Andrew Dobbs Photography

During the year, the Academy Trust engaged the services of Andrew Dobbs photography, a business owned by the spouse of the Headteacher, Joanna Dobbs. The services provided were photography in schools for the LDLT website, and the total cost incurred amounted to £755 (2024: £2,499), including expenses. The trust confirms that this transaction complied with the provisions of the Academy Trust Handbook regarding related party transactions.

Collaborative Learning Trust

During the year, the Trust engaged with Collaborative Learning Trust (CLT), with whom we have an established professional partnership. The Director of Business and Finance at CLT, Catherine Owen, also serves as a Director on the LDLT Board. In line with the Academies Trust Handbook (ATH) and our internal conflict-of-interest processes, an at-cost agreement was in place for all services provided. The Trust incurred £3,150 in school improvement consultancy costs from CLT, and these services were procured transparently, supported by appropriate declarations of interest, oversight, and assurance mechanisms to ensure full compliance with DfE requirements. There were no transactions with CLT in the year ended 31 August 2024.

27. Conversion to academy status

There were no academy conversions during the reporting period. Following a period of rapid growth in previous years, the Trust undertook a phase of consolidation during this academic year, focusing on strengthening systems, processes and organisational capacity rather than onboarding new schools.

28. Events after the end of the reporting period

After the year-end, it is expected that Windmill CE Primary School will convert to academy status and join the Trust, subject to the completion of the required regulatory processes and DfE approval.

In addition, Holy Trinity Infant & Nursery CE School and Holy Trinity CE Junior School formally amalgamated to become a single primary school (Holy Trinity CE Primary School) with effect from 1 September 2025.

Aside from these matters, the Directors confirm that there have been no other significant events between the year-end and the date of approval of these financial statements that require adjustment or additional disclosure.