

Company Registration Number: 07345430 (England & Wales)

The Canterbury Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

The Canterbury Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

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Reference and administrative details
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Members

Mr. A. Doyle
 Mr. R. Field
 Mr. M. Johnstone
 Mrs. J. Keay

Trustees

Mr. M. Johnstone* (Chair)
 Mr. J. Watson (Accounting Officer)
 Mr. J. Brinton * (Chair of Audit & Risk Committee)
 Ms. A. Crittenden (appointed 15.7.25)
 Mr. D. Chamberlain * (Co-opted)
 Mr. D. Fox
 Mr. P. Martin * (Chair of Finance, Buildings and Personnel Committee)
 Mr. P. Swallow
 Mr. M. Walters (appointed 6.1.25)
 Mrs. A. Weinell
 Mr. N. Winterflood * (co-opted) (resigned 9.7.25)
 Dr. U. Garbharran (appointed 16.12.25)

* Members of the Finance, Buildings and Personnel Committee and/or Audit and Risk Committee

Company registered number

07345430

Principal and registered office

Knight Avenue
 Canterbury
 Kent
 CT2 8QA

Senior management team

Mr J. Watson, Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer
 Mrs C. Crane, Trust Executive Vice Principal
 Mrs B. Farrell, Trust Executive Vice Principal (Primary)
 Mr J. Sazant, Chief Operations Officer
 Mrs C. Knight, Chief Financial Officer
 Mr D Etheridge, Director of HR

Independent auditors

UHY Hacker Young
 Chartered Accountants, Statutory Auditors
 Thames House
 Roman Square
 Sittingbourne
 Kent. ME10 4BJ

Bankers

Handelsbanken
 Ground Floor
 St Andrews House
 Station Road East
 Canterbury
 Kent. CT1 2BJ

Solicitors

Furley Page
 39 St Margaret's Street
 Canterbury
 Kent. CT1 2TX

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Trustees' report
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of The Canterbury Academy Trust, a charitable company, for the year 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

The Canterbury Academy Trust comprises of a Primary School, Secondary School, Sixth Form and Alternative Curriculum Provision in the southeast of England. Its academies have a combined pupil capacity of 2,400 and had a roll of 2,429 in the October 2024 school census.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution

The academy trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy trust. The trustees of The Canterbury Academy Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company operates as The Canterbury Academy Trust.

Details of the trustees who served during the year are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

Members' Liability

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

Trustees' Indemnities

The academy trust maintains trustees' and officers' liability insurance which gives appropriate cover for any legal action brought against its trustees. The academy trust has also granted indemnities to each of its trustees and other officers to the extent permitted by law. Qualifying third party indemnity provisions (as defined by section 234 of the Companies Act 2006) were in force during the period and remain in force, in relation to certain losses and liabilities which the trustees or other officers may incur to third parties in the course of acting as trustees or officers of the academy trust. Details of the insurance cover are provided in note 17 to the financial statements.

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

When the company was formed in 2010, the five members and original signatories for the company were also trustees. Following DFE advice, all members are now independent with the exception of the Chair, who is a trustee as well as a member. Members appoint members. The members may appoint up to 15 trustees, which includes the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). In addition to this, trustees may co-opt a further 3 trustees. There is a minimum requirement to have 3 members, although the academy trust has opted to have 5 wherever possible. Due to Multi Academy Trust (MAT) expansion plans in the very near future, the academy trust currently only has four members.

Trustees appoint local governors, following interviews and recommendations made by the Chair of each local governing body.

At the year-end there were 11 trustees (1 member, 8 appointed by members, 1 co-opted and the CEO) and 16 local governors (3 Primary LGB, 6 secondary LGB, 4 Sixth Form LGB, 1 Youth, Community and Extended Services LGB and 2 Finance, Buildings and Personnel Committee. Each local governing body aims to have two trustees and between two and four local governors, including parent and staff representatives. The academy trust advertises vacancies on the school website, on social media and through the Sixth form LinkedIn alumni profile and has used the services of Governor for Schools and Kent Teach to recruit trustees and governors with relevant skills.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees.

The Board of Trustees has established an induction pack which is sent to all new trustees/governors with their appointment letter. The training and induction provided for new trustees/governors will depend on their existing experience. When necessary, induction will include training in charity, educational, legal and financial matters. All trustees/governors are provided with the information needed (including policies, minutes, budgets etc.) to undertake their role.

The Chair of the Board of Trustees/Chair of Local Governing Body either meets or has a telephone conversation with all newly appointed trustees/governors to discuss their general roles, responsibilities and sub-committee membership. An existing trustee/governor acts as a mentor to all new trustees/governors at their first few meetings and when possible, accompanies a new trustee/governor on their first monitoring visit in school. The induction process includes a tour of the school and meeting with the senior leadership team.

During 2024 – 25, the academy trust ran the following training sessions:

Governance, strategic versus operational (directors and local governors); Safeguarding (directors, local governors and members); SEND (directors, local governors and The Langton governors); Pupil Premium (Primary school LGB); Suspensions, policy, panels and law (Primary school LGB) and a follow up from previous year governance training from an external consultant (trustee and local governors secondary and sixth form LGB). From September 2023 the Canterbury Academy Trust has purchased membership through the National College for an online CPD programme for all its staff, which also included all in a governance role.

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The academy trust has developed its own in-house induction training session for all newly appointed Directors and local governors.

Organisational Structure

Members - See details on page 1. Members meet twice a year. They hold trustees to account.

Board of Trustees - See details on page 1, the majority of whom are non-executive. Trustees have established committees and local governing bodies to allow a more focused approach in monitoring and evaluating the work of The Canterbury Academy Trust component parts. Trustees have a scheme of delegation which specifies responsibilities delegated to committees and local governing bodies. Activities carried out at these meetings are discussed at full governing body meetings, held at the end of each term. Trustees hold the leadership team and local governors to account.

The structure of meetings is as follows:

- The Canterbury Primary School local governing body
- The Canterbury Academy (secondary phase) local governing body
- The Sixth Form local governing body
- The Youth, Community and Extended Services local governing body
- The Finance, Buildings and Personnel Committee
- The Audit & Risk Committee
- The Health and Safety Committee
- Pay committee.

Day to day management of The Canterbury Academy Trust is undertaken by the CEO, supported by the Senior Management Team. The CEO of The Canterbury Academy Trust is also the Accounting Officer.

The key management personnel of The Canterbury Academy Trust comprise the trustees and senior leadership team as disclosed on page 1.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel.

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise trustees and senior leadership team as disclosed on page 1.

Remuneration of key management personnel is set at an individual level and during 2024/25 the trustees have taken external professional advice through Browne Jacobson, law firm, which includes benchmarking, market trends and advice on structuring of incentives. Senior management salaries are linked to pay spines, helping trustees conclude that each individual is remunerated at an appropriate level. As such, salaries are linked to factors such as length of service and experience. Total remuneration packages include employer pension contribution rates at specific approved rates.

The board always bear in mind the academy's trust's charitable status and recognises that grant income is received under a funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education and therefore ensures that remuneration paid to senior management personnel never exceeds a reasonable amount that provides value for money. The performance of senior management personnel is reviewed on a regular basis to ensure continuing value for money.

The setting the terms and conditions for the key management personnel, was developed and approved by the Board of Trustees, after taking advice from the CEO and following guidance from the relevant professional pay review bodies. Naturally the CEO was not involved in setting his own remuneration package.

The Board of Trustees has chosen to delegate all pay decisions, with the exception of the Leadership group (Mr. J. Watson, Mrs. B. Farrell and Mrs. C. Crane) to the CEO. All details for setting pay and remuneration are set out in the pay and rewards policy and the professional development review (PDR) documentation which are reviewed annually. All decisions relating to pay for the members of the Leadership Group, including that of the CEO, are taken by the Pay Committee of the Board of Trustees.

Total remuneration paid to senior management personnel is set out in note 14.

Trade union facility time

The Canterbury Academy Trust encourages staff to be members of appropriate trade unions in order to represent their interests. In our history we have always enjoyed good relationships with our staff and have generally had two or three staff at any time prepared to act as local school representatives. Currently, one teacher has an area Health and Safety Responsibility which we have supported by release for appropriate training; he is currently on secondment to the union full-time; he is also a member of our Health and Safety Committee. The academy trust does not currently contribute to funded facility arrangements for any Union.

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Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

The Canterbury Academy Trust established a subsidiary company, Buckle Under Limited, which acquired the entire share capital of City View Pre-School and Nurseries Limited on 30th April 2015. The nursery is therefore under the indirect management of the academy trust, providing greater integration of service, improved partnership working and better progression to The Canterbury Primary School and also provides educational opportunities through placements for the secondary school students studying childcare. Buckle Under Limited enables commercial developments, offering students an increased range of activities and opportunities, for example The Amelix Enterprise Academy students are on a full-time programme that incorporates an Extended Diploma in Entrepreneurship running a real live business, and the first business to be set up is HatHats Barista Academy Ltd, based on the academy trust's site.

Since 2010 the academy trust has welcomed children from St Nicholas Special School in Canterbury onto the academy trust's site in satellite classrooms and areas adapted to meet their needs. The relationship works extremely well and is part of the academy trust's inclusive philosophy. The partnership continues to develop, seeing an increase in numbers and improvements each year.

Since 2012 The Canterbury Academy has worked in partnership with Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys, promoting academic excellence through its grammar stream. A member of Simon Langton senior staff has been seconded to The Canterbury Academy full time to oversee the Grammar Stream. From July 2021 the appointment of a Langton member of staff has been made to coordinate the link with Tim Fox. During academic year 2022/23 a project management group (PMG) was set up, consisting of directors and senior staff from The Canterbury Academy Trust and governors and senior staff at Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys, facilitated by the Local Authority and the Area Education Officer. The PMG meetings continued throughout 2023/24. Discussions were around Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys joining the academy trust and then rebranding the academy trust to formalise our strong existing relationship in line with the government's '2030 ambition'. Information was shared with students, staff, parents and the wider community in July 2023. Due diligence and the consultation process have now been completed, and applications have been made to the DfE for Langton to convert to an Academy and join the Trust, we are now awaiting agreement to enable the legalities to be completed and then rebrand to the new Trust during the early part of the academic year 2025/26.

The Canterbury Academy has an Enterprise and Employability college which offers practical learning opportunities to students in a range of industry sectors, including a commercial hair and beauty salon 'Education Cuts' and a barber which is open to the public, a construction suite and catering outlets.

The Canterbury Academy Trust, on behalf of the Canterbury Inclusion Service and KCC, manages the KS3 and KS4 alternative curriculum programme at Grosvenor House and Phoenix House in Herne Bay, now known as City and Coastal College. Schools in the local area purchase places for students to provide them with respite and intervention, as an alternative to being removed from school.

Adult Education has been part of the campus since 2006 and works with the academy trust to ensure that courses are available to suit the needs of the local community.

The academy trust has a number of sporting links with Kent Crusaders Basketball Club (related party), Canterbury Rugby Club and Marathon Sports (related party). These relationships enable the academy trust to develop post 16 sport provision and also provide enrichment activities for students' pre-16. There is a sports facility on site that is managed by Lifestyle Fitness.

The academy trust has a tennis dome on the site, which is inhabited by Appeti Tennis, who are still interested in pursuing the possibility of expanding the facility with increased court space. A Tennis School was created; two students were on roll in the secondary school in 2024/25. Both students in the tennis school have improved their rankings and achieved well academically. Both students left the Trust at the end of the academic year, progressing onto further education at alternative sixth form provisions in the area.

Kent Language School (KLS) a language school, owned by Concordia Learning Alliance Ltd works with students at The Canterbury Academy Trust, as well as other schools in the area.

The Canterbury Academy Trust is part of Concordia Learning Alliance Ltd, a collaboration to enhance education and achievement, working in partnership with Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys and St Nicholas Special School. Jon Watson, CEO and Bev Farrell, Trust Executive Vice Principal are Directors and Mark Johnstone, Chair of Board of Directors is a member.

John Heffernan was seconded to the Advanced Maths Support Programme for 1 day each week throughout the academic year 2024/25 to act as Area Coordinator for Kent and Medway. His role is to develop working relationships with mathematics departments in schools and colleges in the Kent and Medway area and to liaise with local Mathematics Education Strategic Hubs, Higher Education Institutions (HEI) and other appropriate local agencies to promote the uptake of A level mathematics, Further Mathematics and Core Mathematics at key stage 5 and to improve teaching and learning of mathematics at key stage 4. John was also seconded for 0.5 days each week throughout the year to the Kent and Medway Maths Hub, where he is the Assistant Maths Hub Lead (Post-16) and has responsibility for the coordination and delivery of level 3 mathematics provision throughout the area.

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The Canterbury Academy Trust has benefited significantly from this arrangement with the provision of professional development opportunities for teachers of mathematics and extension and enrichment opportunities being made available to mathematics students at both key stage 4 and key stage 5.

The Canterbury Academy Trust Sports Partnership is committed to providing high quality physical education and sporting opportunities across the schools within the local area. The partnership is a network of teachers and staff who care passionately about the sporting participation of students in their schools. It consists of 39 primary, secondary and special schools. The partnership delivers the national School Games programme and offers a comprehensive buy-in scheme to support primary schools achieve the recommended outcomes of the sport premium funding. This year the partnership has continued to offer more packages to local schools to support them with new guidelines and pre-requisites set by Kent Sport and the Youth Sport Trust. The School Sports Partnership also works with National Governing Bodies and other agencies assisting the development of coaches, officials, volunteers and the wider workforce. The partnership is managed by our School Games organiser, Gemma Edwards.

The Canterbury PTA is a registered charity that has continued to run the school lottery as well as a few small projects this year.

Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)

The Chair of the Board of Directors attends new staff induction days to welcome staff and to explain the governance role.

The academy trust's quality assurance process of governor visits operated a more bespoke and flexible programme during 2024/25, to increase governor participation. Visits took place in terms 2, 4 and 6, with the Primary school local governing body carrying out visits in terms 1, 3 and 5. Uptake with visits increased, with members, directors and local governors engaging with a format agreed between the senior leadership team and governors, focussing on key priorities for improvement across the component parts of the academy trust. 2025/26 will see visits re-branded to 'governor impact visits', with the Secondary and Sixth form offering a pre-scheduled date in terms 2, 4 and 6 to allow directors/local governors to plan their time in advance. Bespoke dates will still be offered outside of this to maximise governor attendance and focus with visits.

A CPD programme is scheduled at the start of the year, as part of staff professional development, they are encouraged to work alongside the governing body, this can be as a staff local governor on one of the local governing bodies, normally in an area different to their day-to-day roles or staff are invited to provide specific reports and attend meetings in an advisory capacity or to present updates on their area.

The governing body also sets its own training schedule at the start of the new academic year and where possible staff deliver in-house sessions to provide governors/directors with a better understanding of their area and receive challenge in areas that require further development.

Directors and local governors attend as many events as possible, for example shows, fairs and celebration events.

During 2024/25 we further developed our designated leads in areas for example: Safeguarding and child protection, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), Pupil Premium, Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) and attendance. The appointed director/governor work closely with the school lead in these areas to gain a better understanding and seek assurances that we provide challenge to ensure we are supporting our students across the academy trust to develop to the best of their ability and maximising their opportunities.

Engagement with suppliers, customers and others in a business relationship with the academy trust

Parents

At the Canterbury Primary School during 2024 – 25 we held a couple of open afternoons, a couple of parent evenings and also had a couple of parent surveys. Christmas events were very well attended. The majority of our parents signed up to Arbor (communications in relation to trips, meals, clubs, letters).

At the Canterbury Academy we held parent evenings for all year groups including our Sixth Form, plus information evenings for year 10 & year 11 students and their families and a well-attended UCAS information evening and a year 6 induction evening. We have held parent forums in relation to students with special educational needs and disabilities and have conducted parental surveys. There have been numerous celebrations events across the Trust, all that have been well supported by the parental body. The majority of parents signed up to Arbor (communications in relation to trips, meals, clubs, letters).

It is important for parents to have the opportunity to ask questions and for information to be shared in an open, transparent and positive way that not only supports the families of our young people, but that supports our staff in making development and improvements across the schools within our Trust.

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Suppliers

Where possible, we always try and use recognised, local suppliers, with a speciality of working with the education sector that have a good reputation, offer value for money and quality of service. Examples are Kent County Supplies and GLS. For higher value purchases we follow our procurement procedures. The academy trust also has service level agreements (SLA) to enable us to enter into contracts for specialist provision. Our normal terms of trade are payment within 30 days. A copy of our payments practice return is available on the school website. Any disputes are generally raised within 24 – 48 hours of delivery with the supplier to obtain a satisfactory conclusion.

Business relationships

For several years now the Rotary Club, Forest of Blean has come into school to support our Sixth Form students on an annual basis, helping them prepare for applying for jobs and holding mock interviews to give them experience and to help build their confidence. We are delighted that the Canterbury DWP team have also joined the Rotary Club to expand and develop the mock interviews offered.

The Canterbury Academy is growing its alumni through a LinkedIn group. Establishing a link with employers and creating opportunities for our students to have work placements.

Each year we have two careers' fairs, where local employers are invited into school to promote their companies and job roles within it - very well attended and this year ADM a local computer company and Southeastern Railway joined us both for the first time.

Regular work experience opportunities with Lloyds Bank, OSG Architects, The Gulbenkian and Showan Hydraulics. The Kings Recreation Centre, NEXT Canterbury and Boots are also supportive of our students.

Our CACHE students are offered work placements with many local nurseries and primary schools, and our Health and Social Care students benefit from these opportunities too; recently one student was offered work with NHS Thanet.

OBJECTIVES, STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES

Objects and Aims

The principle object of the company is to advance education. The Canterbury Academy Trust has schools for all the talents offering a comprehensive education and a wealth of opportunity. It achieves this objective by providing a state education, free of charge, to students aged 4 to 19.

The academy trust's moral purpose is to improve the life chances of children and help in the community. The vision is of a high attaining and achieving Trust with fully extended provision at the centre of its community and widely recognised as an example of leading practice. Young people will leave as positive, confident individuals proud of what they have achieved, prepared to be lifelong learners and ready to play an active and constructive part in society.

These are our key beliefs:

- The Canterbury Academy Trust offers a genuine inclusive comprehensive alternative
- Every child is good at something (all children walk with genius)
- That at The Canterbury Academy Trust it is important to offer 'as much as possible, as often as possible, for as many as possible'
- Every learner matters
- The academy trust exists for its children and its community
- No one comes to work to do a bad job
- Treat people not as they are but as you want them to be

These are our key values:

- Courtesy
- Responsibility
- Honesty
- Equality
- Respect
- Morality

We offer a university style campus, with excellent facilities. All children have gifts; some are talented in sport; some in performing arts and visual arts; some are practically gifted; some have entrepreneurial flair; some have academic gifts. Many students are good at more than one thing.

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The Canterbury Academy Trust offers students five pillars of excellence: in Sport; in Performing Arts and Visual Arts; in Practical Learning and Enterprise Education; in Academic Study, and in Youth, Community and Extended Services.

Objectives, Strategies and Activities:

The Canterbury Academy Trust has continued to focus on driving up standards of teaching and learning across all divisions and key stages. Staff have engaged in a wide programme of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) in order to support this drive and to further develop and enhance pedagogy.

At The Canterbury Primary School, a broad and impactful range of professional development opportunities has been provided to staff this year, supporting both strategic priorities and individual growth. Teachers have engaged in writing moderation to ensure consistency in assessment across data drops. Safeguarding, cybersecurity, and Prevent duty training have reinforced our commitment to pupil safety. Staff have also benefited from training delivered by Place2Be on children's mental health and the Solihull approach, alongside sessions on adaptive teaching and further ASD training to enhance inclusive classroom practice. Apprentice teachers successfully completed a rigorous programme of study with mentoring support, while subject leaders have undertaken national qualifications, including leadership of mathematics. Additional staff have begun NPQs in headship and behaviour and culture. Our Early Careers Teachers participated in multi-day inclusion training through Concordia partner schools, with senior leaders also attending the Concordia inclusion conference, further strengthening our inclusive ethos.

The Canterbury Academy has remained committed to raising teaching and learning standards, supported by a wide range of bespoke professional development opportunities. Building on the success of the Embedding Formative Assessment programme and the implementation of the Academy's Effective Teaching Principles (ETPs) which focus on expert planning, clear routines, questioning, modelling, and feedback, all underpinned by adaptive teaching collaboration has been key to ensuring a high-quality academic experience for all students. These principles are now embedded across the school, supported by a robust evaluation process and the use of Steplab, which provides precise, actionable feedback to drive continuous improvement. Over the academic year, 1,258 lessons have been observed through Steplab, offering teachers immediate insights and next steps. A strong coaching culture has emerged, grounded in a shared language and ongoing feedback, and will now be further developed through regular group rehearsals and the implementation of an expert coaching model.

During 2024/25, The Canterbury Academy Trust's refined process for appraisal, PDR (Professional Development Review), has been successfully implemented, with 100% engagement from staff across all divisions. The overall purpose of PDR is to develop staff personally and professionally and to drive on school improvement priorities. PDR meetings focus on setting supportive objectives, linked to staff roles and responsibilities, identifying any areas of required support and signposting to the HR, Professional Learning and Well-Being teams for further guidance or signposting to relevant professional development opportunities.

Public Benefit

Wherever possible the academy trust aims to contribute to the benefit of the wider public, by making the premises available to third parties for the provision of educational and other opportunities. Facilities are hired out regularly to a number of local organisations City Church, Slimming World, Kumon, Matt Fiddes Martial Arts, Chinese Learning Paradise, Bollywood Blast and Favour House Church.

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

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievement and Performance

The Canterbury Primary School

In the academic year 2024/2025, the following statutory assessments were carried out:

- EYFS end of year teacher assessments
- Year 1 Phonics screening
- Year 2 Phonics screening and retakes
- Year 4 Multiplication check
- End of KS2 SATS

Overall, our children have demonstrated areas of progress over the academic year, noticeably with our year 5 cohort in all subjects, our Year 6 SEN pupils in Maths, Writing and their combined attainment, Year 6 Writing in year progress and Year 5 Science Greater Depth. We recognise the resilience and perseverance the children displayed during assessments. This reflects our school-wide emphasis on metacognition and fostering a growth mindset.

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However, our data indicates a decline in performance across several areas compared to last year, which is disappointing. Notably, there are persistent gaps among our vulnerable groups, and these inconsistencies will be a key focus moving forward. Our upcoming pupil progress meetings will explore how these students are being supported through in-class strategies and targeted interventions, ensuring that every child can thrive.

Early Years:

In Year R, 52.5% of pupils achieved the Good Level of Development, this is slightly down on previous year (55.7%) and below the National Average (68.5%). Whilst the overall GLD is down on previous year, there are some areas within the Early Years Profile which are an improvement since previous year. These are:

1. **Communication and Language**
 - Listening, attention, understanding, and speaking.
2. **Physical Development**
 - Gross and fine motor skills, health, and self-care.
3. **Literacy**
 - Writing – This was a focus area previous year.
4. **Mathematics**
 - Numbers
5. **Understanding the World**
 - People, communities, the natural world, and technology

Phonics screening results:

Year 1 71.7%, a decrease from previous year (73.3%) and below the National Average (80.9%)

Cohort Context (Compared to Last Year):

- **Pupil Premium (PP):** 50% (↑ from 46.6%)
- **English as an Additional Language (EAL):** 31.7% (↑ from 18.3%)
- **Special Educational Needs (SEN):** 16.7% (↑ from 11.6%)

Year 2 73.3% a decrease from previous year (80%) but this is due to mobility in the year group:

- 3 children **left** who had **passed** the check in Year 1.
- 3 **new starters** joined who **had not passed** by end of Year 2.
- Each child is the equivalent to 1.67%, therefore this mobility had a 5% negative impact on the results.

Year 4 Multiplication Check:

Context of year group: The current Year 4 cohort has double the level of SEN than last year's (26% against 13%) and nearly 10% higher PP (50.8% against 41.7%).

- Average mark of 16.37 out of 25, a decrease from previous year (18.15)
- 9.8% achieved 25 out of 25, a decrease from previous year (11.7%)

Year 6 results were as follows:

Cohort Context:

- EAL (English as an Additional Language): 21% (↓7% from school average of 28%) – typically high-performing.
- SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities): 26% (↑4% from school average of 22%) – typically lower-performing.
- Pupil Premium: 49% (↑4% from school average of 45%) – typically lower-performing.
- EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plans): 12% (↑5% from school average of 7%) – typically lower-performing.
- Attendance: 90.8% (↓1.2% from school average of 92%).

Support Provided:

Enrichment afternoons in Terms 5 and 6 to support mental health and engagement.
We have identified the need for a strategic approach to monitoring and addressing attendance issues.

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Achieving Expected standard:

- Reading 63%, a decrease from previous year (67%) and below National Average (75%)
- Writing 69% a decrease from previous year (72%) and below National Average (72%)
- Maths 66% a decrease from previous year (67%) and below National Average (74%)
- SPaG 53% a decrease from previous year (58%) and below National Average (73%)
- Combined 51% a decrease from previous year (55%) and below National Average (62%)

Reading: We have requested marking reviews for 5 children which could add 8.4% to our attainment
 SPaG: We have requested marking reviews for 1 child which could add 1.67% to our attainment.

Achieving Greater Depth standard:

- Reading 24% in line with previous year (25%)
- Writing 8% a decrease from previous year (13%)
- Maths 8% a decrease from previous year (12%)
- SPaG 8% a decrease from previous year (17%)

Summary of changes to address this:

- Visit from external consultant.
- Change of roles and responsibilities to address attendance and Pupil Premium
- Adapting the staffing model
- Providing further training and support for staff
- Adapting the pupil progress meetings
- Regular analysis of data
- Changes to data drops
- Regular feedback to governors and SLT

The Canterbury Academy Secondary Phase

The Canterbury Academy Headline figures are:

- 4+ in English is: 62% (This was 61% in 2024).
- 5+ in English is: 43% (This was 42% in 2024).
- 4+ in Maths is: 67% (This was 60% in 2024).
- 5+ in Maths is: 47% (This was 40% in 2024).

Students that achieved a grade 4 and above in both English and Maths:

- 4+ 56% (This was 52% in 2024).
- 5+ 35% (This was 30% in 2024).

There is no progress 8 information as this year group did not have prior KS2 data due to the pandemic.

Attainment 8 score is 3.98. (This was 3.8 in 2024).

The Canterbury Academy Sixth Form

Our average point score (APS) A level attainment stands at 27.6 which is the equivalent of a C-, published data for 2024 was 24.7 equivalent of a D-.

Applied General qualifications (BTEC and Vocational) stand at 30.35 (28.91 in 2024) which is the equivalent of a Distinction -. We have also seen an increase in the number of students completing qualifications, with sixth form number continuing to grow.

Progress scores are also pleasing with A level Progress at – 0.25 and Vocational progress at +0.09.

Congratulations to our wonderful students and staff and the hard work they have put into the results this year.

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Trustees’ report
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Key Performance Indicators

Ofsted ratings:
City View Pre-School and Nurseries Ltd: GOOD at both the settings (2022); The Canterbury Primary School: Good (2022); The Canterbury Academy: Requires Improvement (2023)

Pupil attendance:

The Canterbury Primary School

ALL	Attendance	National Average
All pupils (2023-2024)	92.56%	94.5%
All pupils (2024 –2025)	92.55%	94.8%
Difference	-0.01%	

Persistent Absentees	Absence	National Average
PA (2023-2024)	24.72%	14.6%
PA (2024 –2025)	27.23%	13.5%
Difference	+2.51%	

Pupil Premium	Attendance
Pupil Premium (2023-2024)	90.44%
Pupil Premium (2024 –2025)	90.48%
Difference	+0.04%

Educational Health Care Plan	Attendance
EHCP (2023-2024)	88.98%
EHCP (2024 –2025)	87.22%
Difference	-1.76%

[Pupil attendance in schools, Week 29 2025 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK](#)

The Canterbury Academy (years 7 – 11)

All	Attendance	National average
2023/24	86.94%	91.1%
2024/25	89.00%	91.4%
Difference	2.06%	

Persistent absence	Attendance	National average
2023/24	37.76%	25.6%
2024/25	29.23%	18.7%
Difference	8.53%	

Pupil Premium	Attendance
2023/24	78.21%
2024/25	82.42%
Difference	4.21%

Educational Health Care Plan	Attendance
2023/24	86.94%
2024/25	89.00%
Difference	2.06%

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The Canterbury Academy Sixth Form

ALL KS5	Attendance	National Average
All pupils (2023-2024)	84.32%	N/A
All pupils (2024 –2025)	85.31%	N/A
Difference	0.99%	

Persistent Absentees KS5	Absence	National Average
PA (2023-2024)	50.21%	N/A
PA (2024 –2025)	51.66%	N/A
Difference	-1.45%	

Disadvantaged Learners KS5	Absence	National Average
PA (2024 –2025)	82.24%	N/A

Other non-financial performance indicators include the Trust's academic achievements which are outlined in the Achievement and Performance section earlier in this report.

Financial Performance is overseen by the Finance, Buildings and Personnel Committee. Financial Budgets, Cash Flow Forecasts including Debtor/Creditor management, and Capital Expenditure are all monitored to ensure sound financial planning.

The following KPI's were in place for September 2024 and included in the monthly management accounts:

1. Student numbers broken down by year group. This is obviously our main source of funding and the key figure to be aware of.

Cash monitoring is also reported, along with the ability to pay liabilities given reductions in some of our income streams.

The above KPIs are effective for the academy trust as it currently stands. They will need to be adapted once another school joins the academy trust in the future.

Going Concern

Based on the fund balances carried forward into 2024/25, having considered forecasts for the coming year, and after making appropriate enquiries, the Board of Trustees has a reasonable expectation that the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Statement of Accounting Policies.

Promoting the success of the company

The board in its decision making have consistently acted in a way to have regard to:

- ***The likely consequences of any decision in the long term***
All key decisions that will have an impact on the long-term future of the academy trust are discussed at the relevant sub-committee and board. For major and long running projects, the board receives regular updates to ensure that there is appropriate oversight, and that appropriate action is taken where necessary.
- ***The interest of the company's employees*** – see section on employees on page 5.
- ***The need to foster the company's business relationships with suppliers, customers and others*** – see section on engagement with suppliers, customers and others in a business relationship with the academy trust on page 6.
- ***The impact of the company's operations on the community and the environment***
The academy trust's key objective is to provide education for its students. The board receives regular updates in terms of the monitoring of the funds received from the DfE and that they are used efficiently and effectively.

As noted on page 7, wherever possible the academy trust aims to contribute to the benefit of the wider public and community, for example:

At the Kent Messenger 'Teacher of the year awards' we had two winners in the Canterbury District: Maggie Tutt at The Canterbury Primary School and Ian Redding at The Canterbury Academy.

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- ***The desirability of the academy trust maintaining a reputation for high standards of business conduct.***
The nature of The Canterbury Academy Trust's work as an education provider makes the maintenance of its reputation for keeping high standards of particular importance. Appropriate systems and processes are in place to ensure the highest standards of education are maintained. The executive team will also update the board with any matters that may have given rise to a reputational risk including any mitigating actions being taken.
- ***The need to act fairly as between members of the company.***
The academy trust is an independent entity. As a limited by guarantee company the academy trust has members, and at 31 August 2025 had four members. Members all have equal voting rights. As responsibility to conduct the academy trust's business sits with the trustees, the members adopt an 'eyes on and hands off' to avoid compromising the board's discretion.

Non-financial and sustainability

This is a requirement that currently only applies to larger academy trusts with a turnover of £500 million or more than 500 employees, as yet we do not meet these criteria. We have however, started to establish a sustainability leadership team, the team is responsible for implementing and monitoring sustainability initiatives. Development to date:

- Working with 'Let's Go Zero' (Felicity Brambling-Wells) we have a Trust climate action plan.
- We have leads at both the Canterbury Academy and Canterbury Primary School
- The first review meeting took place in April 2025, and updates have become a regular part of our Estates meetings.
- Areas such as managing heat, food waste, reprographics, reusable cups, curriculum topics and student voicing are being focused on.
- We are also focusing on increasing LED lighting gradually across the campus.

Financial review and position

The financial statements represent Group financial statements. Details of the Academy trust's subsidiary companies which are consolidated in the Group accounts are provided in note 37. In accordance with accounting requirements the SoFA provides details of the Group consolidated income and expenditure, after the elimination of any transactions between Group companies. Both a consolidated Balance Sheet and the Academy trust's own individual Balance Sheet are included within the financial statements. Note 37 provides details in respect of the parent company Academy trust's own net movement in funds.

Most of the Group's income (around 97%) arises in the Academy trust, the parent company. The majority of the Academy trust's recurrent income is received in the form of grants from the Department for Education ("DfE"), the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE during the year ended 31 August 2025 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities ("SoFA").

Total Group incoming resources for the year were £21.21m (2024: £20.9m). These totals include capital grant income of £52k (2024: £1.19m). This year the capital grant income has been limited to the annual Devolved Capital Formula, whereas last year KCC and NAS (National Autistic Society) capital grants boosted this form of income.

Funding for educational operations has increased to £19.69m (2024: £18.31m) as shown in more detail in note 6 to the financial statements.

Total Group resources expended amounted to £22.01m (2024: £21.24m). Most of this total relates to direct and support costs for the Academy trust's educational operations, and 76% (2024: 72%) of the expenditure comprises staff costs.

The SoFA thus shows net expenditure for the year, before taxation, of £802k (2024: £376k). The taxation charge of £2k (2024: £6k) relates to one of the subsidiary companies.

These net income or expenditure figures do not represent the day-to-day operating result of the Group due to the impact of movements on the restricted fixed asset fund and part of the movement on the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) reserve.

The total movement in the Group's funds for the year, after other gains/losses on the defined benefit LGPS pension scheme, was a reduction of £1.02m (2024: £615k).

The table below shows the in-year movement on the Group's different funds, including the subsidiaries, and resulting balances carried forward into 2024/25:

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	Revenue funds				Other funds		Total funds £000s
	Academy trust restricted revenue funds £000s	Academy trust unrestricted revenue funds £000s	Subsidiary unrestricted funds £000s	Group revenue funds £000s	Academy trust pension £000s	Academy trust Restricted fixed asset £000s	
Brought forward 1.9.2025	75	101	5	181	-	29,934	30,115
In-year movement	(55)	89	12	46	-	(1,064)	(1,018)
Carried forward at 31.8.2025	20	190	17	227	-	28,870	29,097
	TCA revenue funds: £210k (2024: £176k)						

The Academy trust's own revenue funds, which relate to the day-to-day running of its two academies, therefore increased by £34k (2024: decreased by £991k) during the year. A strategic decision was made in July 2023, when the 2023/24 budget was set, to invest money from brought forward reserves of £1.17m to return our reserves to the target range, and so some of this in-year deficit was anticipated. The deficit was larger than originally forecast due to a number of factors:

- a £250k revenue to capital contribution to fund changes to the catering set up, enabling The Canterbury Academy to move from a split lunch to a single lunch, a top priority in the school's improvement plan.
- additional investment in staffing, new software packages for finance and HR, some small building projects.
- increased utility costs; and
- a number of unexpected events leading to a further £400k of spending above budget.

All subsidiary funds are included within Group unrestricted revenue funds, and the figures reported represent the balances and movements within the Group accounts following consolidation adjustments. Movements in the subsidiary accounts are detailed in note 37.

In line with applicable accounting standards, the Group's and trust's share of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) is recognised on the Balance Sheets, with annual movements determined by the Local Authority's actuary and reflected through the Statement of Financial Activities. The 2025 actuarial valuation again reported an accounting surplus at the balance sheet date. Under accounting standards, an employer may only recognise a pension surplus to the extent that it has an unconditional right to realise that surplus, either through reduced future contributions or through refunds.

There remains differing interpretation within the sector as to whether academy trusts have an unconditional right to recover such surpluses, and the Department for Education has not yet issued definitive guidance. Given that the trust is a long-term employer, remains open to new scheme members, and has no reasonable expectation of reaching a point of cessation at which any surplus could be refunded, the trustees consider that the surplus is not recoverable. Accordingly, no asset has been recognised, and a neutral £nil position has been reported on the Balance Sheet.

The underlying surplus is disclosed in note 2, with the actuarial assumptions and detailed movements set out in note 29.

Any pension surplus or deficit is merely an accounting figure calculated under FRS 102 for the purposes of the financial statements and has no direct effect on the employer contribution rate paid by the Academy Trust, which is determined using longer-term funding assumptions. These contribution rates are reviewed every three years in consultation with the scheme's administrators, and current employer contributions due by the academy trust are fixed at the current 22.5% rate until 1 April 2026.

The restricted fixed asset fund represents the net book value of fixed assets held on the Group's balance sheet, together with any unspent capital grant funding (although unspent funding on 31 August 2025 was £nil (2024: £nil)). Movements in fixed assets are shown in notes 18 and 19 to the financial statements. During the year the assets were used almost exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the academies, the only exceptions to this being letting of the premises to local community groups and other affiliated organisations.

Reserves Policy

The trustees review the reserve levels annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The trustees will always try to match income with expenditure in the current year (set and manage a balanced budget), will only carry forward reserves that it considers necessary and will have a clear plan for how it will be used to benefit the pupils.

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The trustees have determined that the appropriate level of revenue reserves will be in the range of £500k to £750k. The upper end of this range equates 4% of annual income; having read the DfE's best practice guidance on managing reserves the trustees are comfortable that this level of reserves is sufficient, and provides sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grant income or capital income and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance or premises repair costs. At 31 August 2025 the Academy trust's reserves were £210k.

A plan was put into place in September 2024 to replenish reserves back to within the agreed range. The Audit & Risk Committee in particular, but also the Board of Trustees as a whole, continue to monitor the plan and the level of reserves on a regular basis. A modest surplus is forecast for 2025/26, and also for each of the two following years, and a number of cost saving measures are in place ready to implement should monthly management accounts suggest the Academy trust is not on target to achieve this budgeted result.

Investment Policy

There are no investments held beyond cash deposits retained with major UK clearing banks. Speculative investments are not permitted.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

Trustees keep reserves under constant review to ensure that we have sufficient income to run the academy trust on an efficient basis without affecting the quality of teaching and learning.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which The Canterbury Academy Trust is exposed, in particular those relating to academic performance/finances/child welfare/safety of the estate. The trustees have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the academy trust faces and have developed policies and procedures to mitigate those risks. The Risk Register is reviewed termly by the document owner and the Trust executive team. The executive summary is discussed at each Audit & Risk Committee meeting and forms part of the CEOs report for Board of Directors meetings, which includes detail of risk mitigation steps.

Where significant financial risk still remains, they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover. The Canterbury Academy Trust has an effective system of internal financial controls, and this is explained in more detail in the Statement of Internal Control. There is also an established system to assess the safety of the estate ensuring it is well maintained and that all relevant regulations are being met.

There is a rolling 5-year capital plan in place to ensure that the estate is maintained in a way which ensures value for money and maintaining a high-quality learning environment as well as adhering to statutory requirements. The academy trust follows the GEMS framework system to help budget and plan for maintaining the estate and this document is reviewed termly at Trust Executive level and at each Audit & Risk Committee meeting, this supports and helps inform the capital works plan.

The risk management process has been codified in a risk register implemented by the Senior Management Team and overseen by trustees.

FUNDRAISING

Currently, the only fundraising is through the school lottery and traditional school events (Christmas fair, etc.). We do not work with any commercial or professional fund raisers and have had no complaints. Our fund raising is limited to the community and all procedures are in place to ensure no undue pressure is put on anyone.

STREAMLINED ENERGY AND CARBON REPORTING

The following report shows The Canterbury Academy Trust's statutory disclosure of the energy use and greenhouse gas emissions for the academy trust in a prescribed format and must publish, as a minimum:

- Annual UK energy use (in kWh), relating to gas, purchased electricity and transport fuel and associated greenhouse gas emissions (in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e))
- An emissions intensity ratio chosen by the academy trust. Intensity ratios compare emissions data with an appropriate business metric or financial indicator, such as pupil numbers, to allow comparison over time or with other organisations.
- The methodologies used to calculate the required information
- A narrative of measures taken to improve energy efficiency in the period of the report. If no measures have been taken, this should be stated.

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UK Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data for the period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025	2023/24	2024/25
Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh)	2,830,503	2,519,380
Energy consumption breakdown (kWh) (optional)		
Gas	1,711,970	1,476,961
Electricity	1,004,705	954,813
Transport fuel	113,828	87,606
<u>Scope 1 emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e</u>		
Gas consumption	312.54	270.22
Transport Fuel – leased minibuses.	<u>25.63</u>	<u>20.52</u>
Total scope 1	338.17	290.74
<u>Scope 2 emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e</u>		
Purchased electricity	208.05	169.00
<u>Scope 3 emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e</u>		
Business travel in employee-owned vehicles	1.60	0.86
Total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO ₂ e	547.81	460.61
<u>Intensity ratio</u>		
Tonnes CO ₂ e per pupil	0.22	0.18

Intensity Measurement

The chosen intensity measurement is total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e per pupil, the recommended ratio for the sector.

Quantification and Reporting Methodology

We have followed the 2025 HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines. We have also used the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Protocol – Corporate Standard and have used the 2025 UK Government's Conversion Factors for Company reporting.

Measures taken to improve efficiency:

- Heating settings/calendar has been adjusted throughout the Campus.
- We continue to increase video conferencing for staff meetings, to reduce the need for travel between sites.
- Online and remote learning is used for staff CPD wherever possible.
- Car sharing and train travel is used wherever possible.
- When undertaking new building projects, we consult with external professionals to ensure the most energy efficient practices are incorporated.
- All lights, when they fail, are being replaced with LED.
- Any new buildings are fitted with energy efficient heating systems (heat recovery) and automatic Led lighting.
- Solar energy is being investigated.
- New boiler and heating system installed, and oil heating system removed.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

The principal task facing the company is to maintain and further improve educational standards achieved by the schools. The Canterbury Academy Trust's four absolute priorities remain:

Absolute priority 1:

To provide the highest possible standards of education by maintaining our focus upon teaching & learning so that all our students become:

- Successful learners who enjoy learning, make progress and achieve.
- Confident individuals who are able to live a safe, healthy and fulfilling life
- Active and responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to the well-being of present and future generations.
- To ensure each of the academy trust's schools and provisions are at least Ofsted 'Good'.

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Absolute priority 2:

To provide the highest possible quality professional development to raise the level of performance of all the staff that work at the Canterbury Academy Trust, so that absolute priority 1 (above) can be better met.

Concordia Learning Alliance Ltd was established in June 2021 offering national professional development for school staff in the local area. The key priority for 2024/25 was to engage as many participants as possible from external schools in the area, opening the year 2024/25 with a conference focusing on 'Courageous leadership in a complex world.' Concordia Learning Alliance Ltd board of Directors met on Tuesday 8 July 2025 and made the decision to close the company with effect from 31st August 2025. The four schools currently involved in the company, The Canterbury Primary School, The Canterbury Academy, Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys and St Nicholas Special School will continue to work collaboratively on CPD and will continue to share best practice and run programmes that have been beneficial to all. Starting academic year 2025/26, they will formalise a memorandum of understanding/heads of terms and will operate under the name of Concordia Professional Learning. Staff from across the four schools that have been facilitators for delivery of NPQs will continue with previous commitments.

At the end of 2022/23 we signed up to membership for the forthcoming academic year with The National College who provide courses, webinars and online training opportunities for staff and governors. This membership has been extended into 2025/26.

Absolute priority 3:

To provide high quality extended service to remove barriers to learning and to provide 'as much as possible, as often as possible for as many as possible.'

Absolute priority 4:

To maximise all advantages and opportunities to provide the highest possible quality environment, accommodation, resources, ethos and customer service to enable all our learners to achieve and our community to benefit from that which the Academy trust provides.

In line with the White Paper and the 2030 ambition, The Canterbury Academy Trust will continually look to grow in line with the government and Department for Education expectations. It is hoped that during the early part of 2025/26 we become The Canterbury Trust, with Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys.

FUNDS HELD AS CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF OTHERS

The academy trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to the students as an agent for the DfE. Details, including any amounts not dispersed by the financial year end, are disclosed in note 33 to the financial statements.

AUDITORS

In so far as the trustees are aware:

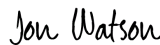
- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware.
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The auditors, UHY Hacker Young, have indicated their willingness to remain in office, and the audit process will be reviewed in detail and re-appointment of the auditors will be considered in due course.

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, and signed on the board's behalf by:

Signed by:

E82B6F1D651247B...
Mr. M. Johnstone
Chairman of Trustees

DocuSigned by:

3CB3E89A01AD455...
Mr. J. Watson
Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer

Date: 16 December 2025

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Governance Statement For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Introduction

Members, trustees and local governors all play a vital role in our governance structure across The Canterbury Academy Trust, providing our senior leadership team with challenge to ensure the quality of provision we provide to our students continually improves.

Our members meet twice a year and hold an AGM after their second meeting each year, where they adopt the financial statement for the previous year and appoint external auditors for the current academic year. Their role is to appoint trustees and hold them to account.

Our trustees schedule four meetings a year and hold extra-ordinary meetings if required during the year to discuss any further urgent business matters. The Trust Chief Executive Officer is also a trustee. As explained on page 3 of the report, committees and local governing bodies have been established to allow a more focused approach to our work and in preparation for Trust expansion. Trustees hold the committees and local governing bodies to account.

Our local governing bodies and committees have responsibilities delegated to them, which are outlined in the scheme of delegation and terms of reference.

Scope of Responsibility

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

As trustees, we have reviewed and taken account of the guidance in DfE's Academy Trust Handbook.

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

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met 4 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

<u>Trustee</u>	<u>Meetings attended</u>	<u>Out of a possible</u>
J. Brinton	3	4
A. Crittenden	2	2
D. Chamberlain	3	4
D. Fox	4	4
M. Johnstone	3	4
P. Martin	4	4
P. Swallow	2	4
M. Walters	3	3
J. Watson	4	4
A. Weinel	3	4
N. Winterflood	0	3

The only changes to the Board of Trustees composition during 2024/25, is the appointment of Mike Walters and Ashley Crittenden, and the resignation of Neil Winterflood. Dr Upaasna Garbharran was appointed on 16th December 2025.

The board and each of its committees/local governing bodies carry out an assessment annually on its effectiveness and also to focus on any challenges it has faced.

In relation to the quality of data and information being shared, we aim for consistency across all committees, local governing bodies and full board meetings. Local governing bodies continue to drive this forward with the Sixth form using a data dashboard throughout 2024/25. Working collaboratively with Head of School, the DIT team and both the Secondary and Sixth form local governing bodies, an agreed format for the data dashboard continues to evolve throughout 2025/26 based on SIP priorities, emphasising strategic focus.

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Conflicts of Interest

In line with our Memorandum and Articles of Association any trustee who has or can have any direct or indirect duty or personal interest (including but not limited to any personal financial interest) which conflicts or may conflict with their duties as a trustee shall disclose that fact to the trustees as soon as they become aware of it. A trustee must absent themselves from any discussions of the trustees in which it is possible that a conflict will arise between their duty to act solely in the interests of the Company and any duty or personal interest (including but not limited to any financial interest). A reminder to this effect forms the opening of every agenda sent for every meeting. During each meeting any trustee that has declared a conflict of interest/related party interest is required to leave the room for any discussions and this is clearly noted within the minutes.

Newly appointed members/trustees/local governors are required to complete a register of business interests declaration. A register of business interests is published on the Academy trust's website for transparency, clearly identifying any related parties. This document is regularly updated throughout each academic year to reflect any changes to member/trustees/local governors and senior school staff circumstances. As part of the end of year process, all members/trustees/local governors and senior school staff are required to complete a related party questionnaire for the financial year being audited.

Related parties have to be notified to the DfE as part of our end of year audit and approval sought before any financial agreements can be entered into. Transactions with related parties are disclosed in note 38 to the financial statements. We have procedures in place to easily identify related party connections and transactions, and we can demonstrate we seek new suppliers where possible. The Finance Team and other relevant staff e.g., site team receive an annual list of related party suppliers.

Supporting Statement Kent Crusaders Community Limited Basketball SLA 2024-25

Approximately 70 "elite" students benefit from an advanced academy programme of training. There is also regular contact with 200 other students across The Trust through after school clubs, enrichment sessions and specialist coaching. The basketball provision continues to attract male students into the Sixth Form sport academy. During 2024/25 provision has been established for girls. The Trust does not have the expertise internally to enable it to deliver the same requirements needed to deliver this specialist provision.

Crusaders Community Basketball is the only provider in the area for this specialist coaching and strengthened their place as a leading provider by winning a national title for the Sixth Form under 18 boys' team in 2024 and by providing a competitive programme for girls at under 18 level.

Supporting Statement Marathon Sports Academy SLA 2024-25

During 2024-25 Marathon Sports supported students in the Athletics Academy. Approximately 10 advanced students benefit from the specialist athletics academy.

The appointment by Marathon Sports of a specialist sport science position which enables dedicated sport science and strength and conditioning support across the 6th form sport academy and the entire Sixth Form sport programme, and a high number of Key Stage 4 students benefit from the role. The Trust does not have the expertise internally to enable it to deliver the same requirements needed to deliver this specialist provision.

Marathon Sports Foundation Ltd is the sole provider in the area for this specialist coaching, and the Trust has built a good long-term relationship with this provider who is able to demonstrate that they also work within our ethos and culture and support the best outcomes for our students.

Meetings:

The Board of Trustees, along with each of the committees and local governing bodies have at least 3 scheduled meetings each year to ensure robust governance and effective management arrangements, in line with the guidance in the Academy Trust Handbook. Should the Trust become larger, it will consider the Board of Trustees meeting on a more frequent basis.

The Trust started the new academic year with a meeting to focus on academic results across the Trust, it then had a further three scheduled board meetings in terms 2, 4 and 6.

We publish twice a year on our school website the attendance at all of our governance meetings. In term 4 we publish information on the previous terms 1 – 3 and at the start of each academic year we publish the information for the full previous year's attendance.

Governance review.

In March 2023, the Board of Directors commissioned an external governance review. A Board improvement plan was drafted to focus on the recommendations made and to allow progress to be monitored. These included:

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Governance Statement

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1. Explain the role of governors and directors to parents and increase direct contact with parents offering informal discussions.
2. Continue to make improvements in relation to recruitment processes.
3. Improve retention of directors and governors, through good induction, providing a mentoring package and training opportunities.

As a Trust we aim to have external reviews of governance every 3 – 5 years.

The Finance, Buildings and Personnel Committee are a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to:

- Assist the decision making of the Board of Directors and enable them to fulfil their responsibilities for ensuring the sound management of the academy trust's finances and resources, including proper planning, monitoring and probity.
- To make appropriate comments and recommendations on such matters to the Board of Directors on a regular basis. Major issues will be referred to the Board of Directors for ratification.

The Chair of the Finance, Buildings and Personnel Committee is the Business Director of a 16-19 free school. He has a degree in computing and business administration and a level 7 Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) qualification in School Financial and Operational Leadership.

Attendance at meetings of the Finance, Buildings and Personnel Committee during the year was as follows:

<u>Trustee</u>	<u>Meetings attended</u>	<u>Out of a possible</u>
M. Johnstone	1	3
P. Martin	3	3
Y. Otomo (local governor)	0	1
J. Redmond (local governor)	3	3
N. Winterflood	3	3

The Audit and Risk Committee is a further sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. It is an advisory body with no executive powers. However, it is authorised by the Board to investigate any activity within its terms of reference, and to seek any information it requires from staff, who are requested to co-operate with the Committee in the conduct of its inquiries. Requests for work, and reports received, from internal audit will be channelled through the Accounting Officer or the CFO to whom the internal auditor reports.

The Audit & Risk Committee is authorised to obtain independent professional advice if it considers this necessary. Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

<u>Trustee</u>	<u>Meetings attended</u>	<u>Out of a possible</u>
J. Brinton	3	3
D. Chamberlain	1	3
P. Martin	3	3

Review of value for money

As Accounting Officer, the CEO 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, as well as estates safety and management, achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

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

- Generating additional income through letting of facilities
- Reduction of expenditure, including non-replacement of staff where possible and appointing non-teaching staff to a variety of roles. This model improves the delivery of many vocational courses as instructors are better equipped to deliver relevant experience. The three major advantages are the Academy trust is buying expertise, enabling a flexibility of provision and saving of on-costs.
- Some Service Level agreements have been terminated. All SLAs are regularly reviewed for value for money.
- Adhering to our procurement policy, by obtaining competitive quotes for purchases and making choices based on value for money
- Share staff resources across the academy trust.
- Staff secondment – Sharing expertise helping local schools.

The Canterbury Academy

(A company limited by guarantee)

Governance Statement

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

- Purchases made are for the academy trust, including the subsidiary company and not for the individual schools.
- Development of Finance Projects Manager as Procurement Officer
- Termly value for money tracker to evidence cost savings.
- Estate's maintenance schedule, using in-house expertise where possible to reduce external contractor costs.

The Academy trust uses the GEMS system to monitor and review the academy trust's estate to ensure it is safe, well maintained and complies with regulations. The system then helps support the Estates manager follow a stringent annual programme of works overseen by the estates team. As well as general decoration type projects the academy trust has also undertaken extension building works, offering improvement to site along with expansion to teaching and learning spaces.

Building works

- The PLCC fire alarm system was upgraded to L2 standard.
- The Frank Hooker building had an electrical upgrade to meet current requirements and improve efficiency.
- LED lighting was fully installed in the CDT classrooms and the LRC.
- LED with absence detection has been fitted in rooms 31, 3a and 3b.
- The windows on the first floor of the Voyager building were replaced this year (the second floor were replaced last year, and the ground floor windows are planned for next year)
- All emergency lighting across the primary and secondary phases is being upgraded during August 2025 to meet current regulations.
- The Canterbury Primary School boiler was replaced.
- Due to a flood in July 2025, we have put in an insurance claim (that has been agreed) to replace the John Tyler building boilers, the main kitchen flooring and some adult education flooring. These works started in August 2025

Solar at the Canterbury Academy

- Five companies were invited in to present possible plans for solar panels. This project is currently on hold.

The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

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

Capacity to Handle Risk

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the academy trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the year to 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 Trustees.

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 Trustees
- regular reviews by the Finance, Buildings and Personnel 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
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties

The Canterbury Academy
(A company limited by guarantee)

Governance Statement
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Internal Scrutiny report 2024-25

The board of trustees has decided to buy in services of an Internal auditor during the year, and TIAA were appointed to undertake one financial based internal audit visit and one cyber security visit.

Review of key control framework

The purpose of this visit was to provide assurance to the Trustees over the management of the following areas of key financial controls:

- Financial policy and procedures
- Procurement policy
- Recruitment policy and procedures

During the visit, the finance and procurement process was reviewed and tested against samples of purchase invoices of varying values, and these were tested against the policy.

After testing all areas found needing attention in the review of the prior year, the following findings were reported:

TIAA evaluation:

- 7 Prior year recommendations
- 5 now implemented.
- 2 not fully implemented.

Having completed the follow-up review, it can be confirmed that five of the original seven recommendations have been fully implemented. Testing undertaken as part of this follow up identified documentation that had not been correctly marked/authorised and therefore did not allow the recommendations to be signed off as fully implemented. It is understood that these have been challenging to implement owing to the highly manual nature of the current process, specifically, invoice authorisation being paper-based such that invoices are stamped and signed by authorisers.

A new electronic purchase order system is currently under review which would help eradicate these issues raised.

Review of Cyber Security

The purpose of this visit was to provide assurance to the trustees over the general levels of cyber security effectiveness and practices across the Trust and highlight any risks and control weaknesses.

- This report is produced based on Cyber Risk Management (CRM)
- This report has given an overall rating across the key CRM areas.

The review has been undertaken in accordance with the trust risk management policy, the trustees have been provided with a full cyber security report.

Cyber security remains a key focus area of risk management.

During 2024–25, The Canterbury Academy engaged with a range of external support to strengthen school improvement. This included support from the Coastal Academies Trust, allocated through the Department for Education (DfE) as part of the Trust and School Improvement Offer. This DfE-funded programme provides support and advice to eligible schools and trusts facing challenges, with the aim of securing sustainable improvement and strengthening leadership. The programme involves experienced system leaders—often CEOs of strong Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs)—providing up to 10 days of strategic advice, access to resources, and guidance on pathways to joining a strong MAT.

In addition, the Academy continued its long-standing collaborative work with Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys (a partnership in place since 2012) alongside several other local schools, who supported our review and quality assurance processes. The Canterbury Academy Trust also led the development of a number of best practice hubs in collaboration with schools in Canterbury, Faversham and Whitstable, enabling shared quality assurance across schools.

Across the academic year, the Academy’s external support and review activity was structured around specific areas of focus each term:

- Term 1: Behaviour, assessments, and attendance.
- Term 2: Attendance and subject areas.

The Canterbury Academy
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Governance Statement
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

- Term 3: Attendance, Pupil Premium (PP), and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). On 23rd January 2025, external consultant Graham Chisnell conducted a comprehensive review of attendance, curriculum, personal development, safeguarding, SEND, PP, Sixth Form, and staff wellbeing.
- Term 4: SEND, PP, and Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).
- Term 5: No reviews due to external exams.
- Term 6: Subject areas reviews

Review of Effectiveness

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

- the work of the internal auditor
- the work of the external auditor
- the work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- External consultants commissioned on a case-by-case basis. For example: The Education People completed a safeguarding review.
- Audit collaborative work through the DfE who commissioned 'Trust and school improvement' offer with Coastal Academies Trust

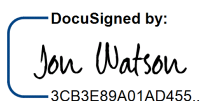
The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Audit and Risk committee and a plan to address any recommendations and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

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

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

Signed by:

E82B6F1D651247B...
Mr. M. Johnstone
Chairman of Trustees

DocuSigned by:

3CB3E89A01AD455...
Mr. J. Watson
Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer

Date: 16 December 2025


The Canterbury Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance

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

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

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

DocuSigned by:

3CB3E89A01AD455...
Mr. J. Watson
Accounting Officer

Date: 16 December 2025

The Canterbury Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement of trustees' responsibilities
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

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

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of 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 group will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Group and the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Group and 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 Group and the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees and signed on its behalf by:

Signed by:



E82B6F1D651247B...

Mr. M. Johnstone
Chair of Trustees

Date: 16 December 2025

The Canterbury Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Independent Auditors' Report on the financial statements to the Members of The Canterbury Academy Trust

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Canterbury Academy Trust (the 'parent academy trust') and its subsidiaries (the 'Group') for the year ended 31 August 2025 which comprise the Consolidated statement of financial activities, the Consolidated balance sheet, the Academy trust balance sheet, the Consolidated statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by the Department for Education.

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council'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 Group's or the parent academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual Report. 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.

The Canterbury Academy Trust
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Independent Auditors' Report on the financial statements to the Members of The Canterbury Academy Trust
(continued)

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Trustees' Report including the Strategic Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' Report and the Strategic Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the Group and the parent academy trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report including the Strategic 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:

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

Responsibilities of trustees

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

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

Auditors' 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 Auditors' 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 noncompliance 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 commercial knowledge and experience of the academy and wider education 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 Academy Trust Handbook, Annual Accounts Direction, Charity SORP and the Companies Act 2006;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

The Canterbury Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Independent Auditors' Report on the financial statements to the Members of The Canterbury Academy Trust
(continued)

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.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in the accounting policies were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

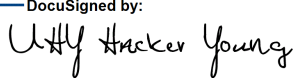
- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and
- enquiring of management and representatives of Trustees as to actual and potential litigation and claims

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

Use of our report

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

DocuSigned by:

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Allan Hickie BSc FCA (Senior statutory auditor)
 for and on behalf of
UHY Hacker Young
 Chartered Accountants
 Statutory Auditors
 Thames House
 Roman Square
 Sittingbourne
 Kent
 ME10 4BJ

Date: 19 December 2025

The Canterbury Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 11 June 2025 and further to the requirements of the Department for Education (DfE) as included in the extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts 2024 to 2025, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether anything has come to our attention that would suggest, in all material respects, the expenditure disbursed and income received by The Canterbury Academy Trust during the year 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 have not been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of The Canterbury Academy Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of The Canterbury Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 26 August 2010 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 extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts 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 Accountants of Academy Trusts issued by the 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.

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts issued by the 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 Trust's income and expenditure

The Canterbury Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to The Canterbury Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education (continued)

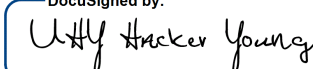
The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion included:

- An evaluation of the general control environment, and whether delegated financial authorities are complied with and appropriate segregation of duties is in place.
- An assessment of the risk of material irregularity and impropriety across all of the academy trust's activities, which includes a review of the internal scrutiny reports for the year.
- Further testing and review of the areas identified through the risk assessment including enquiry and examination of supporting evidence across all areas identified, as well as additional verification work where considered necessary.
- A review of whether grants have been used in accordance with funding conditions.
- A review of trustee board and relevant sub-committee minutes for declaration interests.
- A review of expenditure for any supplies from related or connected parties.
- Consideration of whether the academy trust's governance arrangements and composition are in line with the Academy Trust Handbook.
- An assessment of whether the academy trust has complied with the 'must' requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook, which includes a review of the self-assessment declaration that we asked the Accounting Officer to complete.
- Consideration of evidence obtained through the work detailed above and the work completed as part of our external audit of the financial statements in order to support the regularity conclusion.

In line with the Framework and guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts issued March 2025, we have not performed any additional procedures regarding the academy trust's compliance with safeguarding, health and safety and estates management.

Conclusion

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggest in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 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.

DocuSigned by:

02F6C72F3CEA48E...
UHY Hacker Young
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
Thames House
Roman Square
Sittingbourne
Kent
ME10 4BJ

Date: 19 December 2025

The Canterbury Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Consolidated Statement of financial activities (incorporating income and expenditure account)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2024 £000
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	-	9	52	61	1,203
Other trading activities	4	1,272	165	-	1,437	1,311
Investments	5	24	-	-	24	40
Funding for educational operations	6	728	18,960	-	19,688	18,314
Total income		2,024	19,134	52	21,210	20,868
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	8	899	-	-	899	931
Charitable activities	9	821	19,131	1,159	21,111	20,313
Total expenditure		1,720	19,131	1,159	22,010	21,244
Net income/(expenditure) before taxation		304	3	(1,107)	(800)	(376)
Taxation		(2)	-	-	(2)	(6)
Net income/(expenditure) after taxation		302	3	(1,107)	(802)	(382)
Transfers between funds	23	(201)	158	43	-	-
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)		101	161	(1,064)	(802)	(382)
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	29	-	2,657	-	2,657	(19)
Adjustment or restriction on pension assets	29	-	(2,873)	-	(2,873)	(214)
Net movement in funds		101	(55)	(1,064)	(1,018)	(615)
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward	23	106	75	29,934	30,115	30,730
Net movement in funds		101	(55)	(1,064)	(1,018)	(615)
Total funds carried forward		207	20	28,870	29,097	30,115

The Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 34 to 62 form part of these financial statements.

The Canterbury Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)
Registered number: 07345430

Consolidated Balance Sheet
As at 31 August 2025

	Note	2025 £000	2024 £000
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	18	28,891	29,946
Investments	19	-	-
		<u>28,891</u>	<u>29,946</u>
Current assets			
Stocks	20	47	52
Debtors	21	1,035	1,139
Cash at bank and in hand		398	461
		<u>1,480</u>	<u>1,652</u>
Current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	22	(1,274)	(1,483)
		<u>206</u>	<u>169</u>
Net current assets			
		<u>29,097</u>	<u>30,115</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			
Defined benefit pension scheme	29	-	-
		<u>29,097</u>	<u>30,115</u>
Total net assets			
		<u>29,097</u>	<u>30,115</u>
Funds of the Group			
Restricted funds:			
Fixed asset funds	23	28,870	29,934
Restricted income funds	23	20	75
		<u>28,890</u>	<u>30,009</u>
Total restricted funds			
Unrestricted income funds	23	207	106
		<u>29,097</u>	<u>30,115</u>
Total funds			
		<u>29,097</u>	<u>30,115</u>

The financial statements on pages 30 to 62 were approved and authorised for issue by the trustees and are signed on their behalf, by:

Signed by:

Mark Johnstone

E82B6F1D651247B...

Mr. M. Johnstone
Chair of Trustees

DocuSigned by:

Jon Watson

3CB3E89A01AD455...

Mr. J. Watson
Accounting Officer

Date: 16 December 2025

The notes on pages 34 to 62 form part of these financial statements.

The Canterbury Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)
Registered number: 07345430

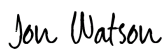
Academy trust Balance Sheet
As at 31 August 2025

	Note	2025 £000	2024 £000
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	18	28,870	29,934
Current assets			
Stocks	20	47	52
Debtors	21	1,094	1,199
Cash at bank and in hand		328	391
		<u>1,469</u>	<u>1,642</u>
Current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	22	(1,259)	(1,466)
		<u></u>	<u></u>
Net current assets		210	176
		<u></u>	<u></u>
Total assets less current liabilities		29,080	30,110
Defined benefit pension scheme	29	-	-
		<u></u>	<u></u>
Total net assets		<u>29,080</u>	<u>30,110</u>
Funds of the academy trust			
Restricted funds:			
Fixed asset funds	23	28,870	29,934
Restricted income funds	23	20	75
		<u></u>	<u></u>
Total restricted funds	23	28,890	30,009
Unrestricted income funds	23	190	101
		<u></u>	<u></u>
Total funds		<u>29,080</u>	<u>30,110</u>

The financial statements on pages 30 to 62 were approved and authorised for issue by the trustees and are signed on their behalf, by:

Signed by:

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Mr. M. Johnstone
Chair of Trustees

DocuSigned by:

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Mr. J. Watson
Accounting Officer

Date: 16 December 2025

The notes on pages 34 to 62 form part of these financial statements.

The Canterbury Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

	Note	2025 £000	2024 £000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash used in operating activities	25	(32)	(860)
Cash flows from investing activities	26	(31)	(272)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(63)	(1,132)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		461	1,593
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	27, 28	398	461

The notes on pages 34 to 62 form part of these financial statements

The Canterbury Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

1. Accounting policies

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

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements of the Group, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historic 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.

The Canterbury Academy Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

The Consolidated statement of financial activities (SOFA) and Consolidated balance sheet consolidate the financial statements of the academy trust and its subsidiary undertakings. The results of the subsidiaries are consolidated on a line by line basis.

The academy trust has taken advantage of the exemption allowed under section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 and has not presented its own Statement of financial activities in these financial statements.

1.2 Going concern

The trustees have assessed the financial position of the academy trust, taking into account the current reserves, projected income and expenditure, and the trust's ability to meet its obligations as they fall due. While the academy trust's reserves are below the level deemed ideal, the trustees are satisfied that the trust has adequate resources to continue operating for the foreseeable future. In making their assessment, the trustees have considered the following:

1. **Funding and Income.** The academy trust continues to receive regular funding from the DfE, including General Annual Grant (GAG) income, and has not been informed of any material changes to this funding. Pupil numbers for 2025/26 are strong, providing certainty over the level of lagged core funding for the 2026/27 academic year.
2. **Cash Flow Management.** Detailed cash flow forecasts have been prepared, demonstrating that the academy trust can manage its liquidity and meet its financial obligations over the next 12 months, and appropriate financial controls and cost-saving measures have been implemented to maintain a balanced operational budget.
3. **Reserves Policy.** While the academy trust's reserves are currently below the target level outlined in its reserves policy, Trustees are actively monitoring financial performance and implementing measures to rebuild reserves in the medium term.
4. **Mitigating Risks.** The trustees have considered potential risks, including unforeseen reductions in funding or unexpected costs, and are confident that appropriate contingency plans are in place.

The trustees acknowledge that the low level of reserves represents a financial challenge but are confident in the measures being taken to address this.

Based on the above considerations, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, and that there are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the academy trust to continue as a going concern. For this reason, the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The Canterbury Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.3 Income

All income is recognised when the Group 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 year 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 year it is receivable and to the extent the Group has provided the goods or services.

1.4 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 on raising funds**

This includes all expenditure incurred by the Group to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

- **Charitable activities**

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

Where applicable expenditure is shown inclusive of any irrecoverable VAT.

1.5 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Group; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

The Canterbury Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.6 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.

1.7 Tangible fixed assets

Assets costing £20,000 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 Consolidated 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 Consolidated statement of financial activities. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

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

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Freehold property	- 50 years
Furniture and equipment	- 4 to 7 years
Computer equipment	- 5 years
Property improvements	- 5 to 50 years

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 Consolidated statement of financial activities.

1.8 Investments

Investments in subsidiaries are valued at cost less provision for impairment.

1.9 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks

The Canterbury Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.10 Financial instruments

The Group only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS 102. The financial assets and financial liabilities of the Group and their measurement bases 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 21. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Amounts due to the academy trust's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

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 22. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument. Amounts due to the academy trust's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

1.11 Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Consolidated statement of financial activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

1.12 Pensions

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

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

The LGPS is a funded multi-employer scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the Group 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 operating surplus 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 Consolidated 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.

1.13 Agency arrangements

The academy trust acts as an agent in distributing 16-19 bursary funds from the DfE. Payments received from the DfE and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the statement of financial activities as the trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The trust can use a percentage of the allocation towards its own administration costs, however chooses not to do so. The funds received and paid and any balances held are disclosed in note 33.

The Canterbury Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.14 Fund accounting

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

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

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment

Estimates and judgments 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 or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 29, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2025. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

The ultimate responsibility for setting the assumptions is that of the academy trust, as the employer, however each year the LGPS actuary proposes a standard set of assumptions as part of the valuation exercise, using their expert opinion, and which comply with the accounting requirements. The academy trust has, in practice with most employers, adopted the recommended actuarial assumptions following further consultation with its auditors to ensure these assumptions are reasonable and in line with those adopted by other academy trusts.

Critical areas of judgment:

LGPS pension asset recognition

FRS 102 section 28.22 allows an entity to recognise a pension asset "only to the extent it is able to recover the surplus either through reduced contributions in the future or through refunds from the plan." The trustees have considered it unlikely that a surplus being recognised would ever result in a repayment or reduction in contributions, given that such a surplus is probably only temporary.

Therefore although the LGPS actuarial valuation report for the year ended 31 August 2025 indicates a defined benefit asset of £3.55m (2024: £677k) existed at the year end date, this asset has been restricted to leave a break-even position on the Balance Sheet.

The movement in the unrecognised defined benefit asset during the year of £2.87m (2024: £214k) is shown on the Statement of Financial Activities as an adjustment for restriction on pension assets.

The Canterbury Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

3. Income from donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000	<i>Total funds 2024 £000</i>
Donations	-	9	-	9	16
Capital grants	-	-	52	52	1,187
	-	9	52	61	1,203
<i>Analysis of 2024 total by fund</i>	2	14	1,187	1,203	

4. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000	<i>Total funds 2024 £000</i>
Rentals and lettings	256	-	256	236
Other income from facilities and services	282	65	347	447
Insurance claims	-	100	100	-
Subsidiary income	734	-	734	628
	1,272	165	1,437	1,311
<i>Analysis of 2024 total by fund</i>	1,231	80	1,311	

5. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000	<i>Total funds 2024 £000</i>
Bank interest	24	24	40
<i>Analysis of 2024 total by fund</i>	40	40	

The Canterbury Academy Trust
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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

6. Funding for the academy trust's charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000	<i>Total funds 2024 £000</i>
Educational operations				
DfE grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	10,256	10,256	9,532
Other DfE grants				
16 to 19 revenue funding	-	4,180	4,180	3,669
Pupil and service premium	-	682	682	664
Teachers' pay and pension	-	635	635	433
Mainstream additional	-	-	-	333
Recovery premium	-	-	-	150
Core schools budget	-	459	459	-
NIC mainstream	-	96	96	-
Universal infant free school meals	-	29	29	28
PE and Sports premium	-	20	20	19
Others	-	100	100	68
	-	16,457	16,457	14,896
Other Government grants				
Local authority - Special educational	-	1,366	1,366	1,122
Other local authority revenue grants	-	248	248	442
	-	1,614	1,614	1,564
	728	889	1,617	1,854
Other income from educational operations				
	728	18,960	19,688	18,314
	728	18,960	19,688	18,314
<i>Total 2024</i>	448	17,866	18,314	

The Canterbury Academy Trust
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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

7. Expenditure

	Staff Costs	Premises	Other	Total	<i>Total</i>
	2025	2025	2025	2025	<i>2024</i>
	£000	£000	£000	£000	<i>£000</i>
Expenditure on fundraising trading activities:					
Direct costs	758	31	110	899	931
Educational operations:					
Direct costs	13,283	1,158	1,901	16,342	16,100
Support costs	2,692	1,110	967	4,769	4,213
	<u>16,733</u>	<u>2,299</u>	<u>2,978</u>	<u>22,010</u>	<u>21,244</u>
<i>Analysis of 2024 total by fund</i>	<u>15,240</u>	<u>2,287</u>	<u>3,717</u>	<u>21,244</u>	

8. Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds	Total funds	<i>Total funds</i>
	2025	2025	<i>2024</i>
	£000	£000	<i>£000</i>
Premises costs	27	27	38
Learning resources	44	44	92
Subsidiary expenditure	66	66	87
Trust and subsidiary staff costs	706	706	671
Subsidiary social security costs	43	43	30
Subsidiary pension costs	9	9	8
Subsidiary amortisation and depreciation	4	4	5
	<u>899</u>	<u>899</u>	<u>931</u>
<i>Analysis of 2024 total by fund</i>	<u>931</u>	<u>931</u>	

The Canterbury Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

9. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted funds 2025 £000	Total 2025 £000	<i>Total 2024 £000</i>
Educational operations	821	20,290	21,111	20,313
<i>Analysis of 2024 total by fund</i>	455	19,858	20,313	

10. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Direct costs 2025 £000	Support costs 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000	<i>Total funds 2024 £000</i>
Educational operations	16,342	4,769	21,111	20,313
<i>Total 2024</i>	16,100	4,213	20,313	

Analysis of direct costs

	Total funds 2025 £000	<i>Total funds 2024 £000</i>
Staff costs	13,283	12,454
Depreciation	1,158	1,119
Other staff expenses	77	117
Educational supplies	202	391
Examination fees	341	359
Technology costs	43	71
Educational consultancy	959	1,203
Other direct costs	279	386
	16,342	16,100

The Canterbury Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

10. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Total funds 2025 £000	<i>Total funds 2024 £000</i>
Staff costs	2,692	2,077
Technology costs	170	146
Maintenance of premises	270	136
Operating lease rentals	96	72
Risk protection arrangement fees	66	59
Other premises costs	678	863
Transport	24	22
Catering	460	477
Legal and professional	65	138
Governance costs	23	23
Other support costs	225	200
	4,769	4,213

Support staff costs include the non-cash and non-actuarial element of the Local Government Pension Scheme movement for the year in accordance with accounting policy 1.13. The costs above include a credit of £216k for the current year (2024: credit of £233k).

11. Analysis of specific expenses

Included within expenditure are the following transactions:

	Total £000	Amount £000	Reason
Unrecoverable debts	1	-	

12. Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2025 £000	<i>2024 £000</i>
Operating lease rentals	108	116
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	1,158	1,122
Amortisation of intangible assets	-	1

The Canterbury Academy Trust
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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

13. Auditors' remuneration

	2025	<i>2024</i>
	£000	<i>£000</i>
Fees payable to the academy trust's auditor for the audit of the academy trust's annual accounts	15	<i>14</i>
Fees payable to the academy trust's auditor and its associates in respect of:		
The auditing of accounts of subsidiaries of the academy trust	4	<i>4</i>
Audit-related assurance services	3	<i>4</i>
All non-audit services not included above	1	<i>1</i>
	<u>15</u>	<u>14</u>

14. Staff

a. Staff costs and employee benefits

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	Group	<i>Group</i>	Academy trust	<i>Academy trust</i>
	2025	<i>2024</i>	2025	<i>2024</i>
	£000	<i>£000</i>	£000	<i>£000</i>
Wages and salaries	12,349	<i>11,527</i>	11,815	<i>11,067</i>
Social security costs	1,399	<i>1,166</i>	1,356	<i>1,136</i>
Pension costs	2,679	<i>2,285</i>	2,670	<i>2,277</i>
	<u>16,427</u>	<u>14,978</u>	<u>15,841</u>	<u>14,480</u>
Agency staff costs	301	<i>217</i>	301	<i>217</i>
Staff restructuring costs	5	<i>45</i>	5	<i>45</i>
	<u>16,733</u>	<u>15,240</u>	<u>16,147</u>	<u>14,742</u>
	<u>16,733</u>	<u>15,240</u>	<u>16,147</u>	<u>14,742</u>

	Group	<i>Group</i>	Academy trust	<i>Academy trust</i>
	2025	<i>2024</i>	2025	<i>2024</i>
	£000	<i>£000</i>	£000	<i>£000</i>
Severance payments	12	<i>45</i>	12	<i>45</i>
	<u>12</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>45</u>

Severance payments include payments in lieu of notice and accrued holiday pay, which are not included in staff restructuring costs.

The Canterbury Academy Trust
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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

14. Staff (continued)

b. Severance payments

The Group paid 2 severance payments in the year (2024 - 4), disclosed in the following bands:

	Group 2025 No.	Group 2024 No.
£0 - £5,000	2	1
£5,000 - £10,000	-	2
£30,000 - £35,000	-	1

c. Special staff severance payments

During the year, and included in the total severance payments disclosed in part (a), there were two non-contractual severance payments of £4,212 and £1,000.

d. Staff numbers

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

	Group 2025 No.	Group 2024 No.	Academy trust 2025 No.	Academy trust 2024 No.
Leadership	6	6	6	6
Teachers	168	172	166	170
Administration and support	228	219	202	196
	402	397	374	372

The average headcount expressed as full-time equivalents was:

	Group 2025 No.	Group 2024 No.	Academy trust 2025 No.	Academy trust 2024 No.
Leadership	6	6	6	6
Teachers	147	149	145	147
Administration and support	157	154	138	138
	310	309	289	291

The Canterbury Academy Trust
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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

14. Staff (continued)

e. Higher paid staff

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

	Group 2025 No.	<i>Group 2024 No.</i>
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	19	15
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	5	4
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	2	1
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	2	2
In the band £130,001 - £140,000	-	1
In the band £140,001 - £150,000	1	-
	=====	=====

f. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £742k (2024 - £675k).

15. Central services

No central services were provided by the Group to its academies during the year and no central charges arose.

16. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

The Chief Executive Officer has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from his employment with the academy trust. He only receives remuneration in respect of services provided under undertaking his employed role under his contract of employment. The value of his remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

		2025 £000	<i>2024 £000</i>
Mr. J. Watson, Chief Executive Officer	Remuneration	140 - 145	130 - 135
	Pension contributions paid	35 - 40	30 - 35

During the year ended 31 August 2025, no trustee expenses have been incurred (2024 - £NIL).

17. Trustees' and Officers' insurance

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

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

18. Tangible fixed assets

Group				
	Freehold property £000	Furniture and equipment £000	Computer equipment £000	Total £000
Cost				
At 1 September 2024	40,124	543	571	41,238
Additions	46	13	48	107
At 31 August 2025	40,170	556	619	41,345
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2024	10,499	400	393	11,292
Charge for the year	1,039	34	89	1,162
At 31 August 2025	11,538	434	482	12,454
Net book value				
At 31 August 2025	28,632	122	137	28,891
At 31 August 2024	29,625	143	178	29,946

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Notes to the Financial Statements
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18. Tangible fixed assets (continued)

Academy trust

	Freehold property £000	Furniture and equipment £000	Computer equipment £000	Total £000
Cost				
At 1 September 2024	40,124	454	571	41,149
Additions	46	-	48	94
At 31 August 2025	40,170	454	619	41,243
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2024	10,499	323	393	11,215
Charge for the year	1,039	30	89	1,158
At 31 August 2025	11,538	353	482	12,373
Net book value				
At 31 August 2025	28,632	101	137	28,870
At 31 August 2024	29,625	131	178	29,934

Included in the net book value of property displayed above are the following amounts ascribable to land:

	Group 2025 £000	Group 2024 £000	Academy trust 2025 £000	Academy trust 2024 £000
Freehold land	3,703	3,703	3,703	3,703

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

19. Fixed asset investments

	Investments in subsidiary companies £000
Cost	
At 1 September 2024	245
	<hr/>
At 31 August 2025	245
	<hr/> <hr/>
Impairment	
At 1 September 2024	245
	<hr/>
At 31 August 2025	245
	<hr/> <hr/>

20. Stocks

	Group 2025 £000	<i>Group 2024 £000</i>	Academy trust 2025 £000	<i>Academy trust 2024 £000</i>
Goods for resale	47	52	47	52
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

21. Debtors

	Group 2025 £000	<i>Group 2024 £000</i>	Academy trust 2025 £000	<i>Academy trust 2024 £000</i>
Trade debtors	335	428	336	449
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	-	-	45
Other debtors	118	189	118	189
Prepayments and accrued income	582	522	640	516
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,035	1,139	1,094	1,199
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

22. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Group 2025 £000	<i>Group</i> <i>2024</i> <i>£000</i>	Academy trust 2025 £000	<i>Academy trust</i> <i>2024</i> <i>£000</i>
Trade creditors	263	438	261	437
Other taxation and social security	302	250	302	250
Other creditors	432	406	432	398
Accruals and deferred income	277	389	264	381
	<u>1,274</u>	<u>1,483</u>	<u>1,259</u>	<u>1,466</u>

	Group 2025 £000	<i>Group</i> <i>2024</i> <i>£000</i>	Academy trust 2025 £000	<i>Academy trust</i> <i>2024</i> <i>£000</i>
Deferred income at 1 September 2024	102	102	101	101
Resources deferred during the year	131	102	125	101
Amounts released from previous periods	(102)	(102)	(101)	(101)
	<u>131</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>101</u>

The deferred income above related to the following income sources:

	Group 2025 £000	<i>Group</i> <i>2024</i> <i>£000</i>	Company 2025 £000	<i>Company</i> <i>2024</i> <i>£000</i>
Subsidiary income	6	1	-	-
DfE universal infant free school meals	17	17	17	17
Pupil and other income	108	84	108	84
	<u>131</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>101</u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

23. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 September 2024 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers in/out £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	Balance at 31 August 2025 £000
Unrestricted funds						
General funds	101	1,290	(1,000)	(201)	-	190
Subsidiary reserves	5	734	(722)	-	-	17
	<u>106</u>	<u>2,024</u>	<u>(1,722)</u>	<u>(201)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>207</u>
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	10,305	(10,463)	158	-	-
Other DfE	26	6,202	(6,228)	-	-	-
Other government	19	1,375	(1,394)	-	-	-
Other restricted	30	1,252	(1,262)	-	-	20
Pension reserve	-	-	216	-	(216)	-
	<u>75</u>	<u>19,134</u>	<u>(19,131)</u>	<u>158</u>	<u>(216)</u>	<u>20</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Tangible	29,934	-	(1,158)	94	-	28,870
Capital grants	-	52	(1)	(51)	-	-
	<u>29,934</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>(1,159)</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>28,870</u>
Total Restricted funds	<u>30,009</u>	<u>19,186</u>	<u>(20,290)</u>	<u>201</u>	<u>(216)</u>	<u>28,890</u>
Total funds	<u>30,115</u>	<u>21,210</u>	<u>(22,012)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(216)</u>	<u>29,097</u>

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

- (i) General Annual Grant "GAG" fund must be used for the normal running costs of the academy trust's academies.
- (ii) The other DfE fund is used to track other grant money received from the DfE and connected bodies, and principally included the material grants detailed separately in note 6.
- (iii) The Other government grants fund is used to track grants provided by the local authority and other government departments, as detailed in note 6.
- (iv) The Other restricted fund accounts for all other income received for a specific purpose.

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

23. Statement of funds (continued)

(v) The Pension reserve is a restricted fund to account for movements in the Local Government Pension Schemes.

(vi) The Restricted fixed asset funds are carried forward to meet the specific costs of fixed asset projects and to cover the depreciation charges that will required on these projects going forward and the current fixed assets held. The transfers into this fund represent capital items purchases during the year from revenue reserves.

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

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

	<i>Balance at 1 September 2023 £000</i>	<i>Income £000</i>	<i>Expenditure £000</i>	<i>Transfers in/out £000</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses) £000</i>	<i>Balance at 31 August 2024 £000</i>
Unrestricted funds						
General funds	825	1,093	(787)	(1,030)	-	101
Subsidiary reserves	(18)	628	(605)	-	-	5
	<u>807</u>	<u>1,721</u>	<u>(1,392)</u>	<u>(1,030)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>106</u>
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	175	9,532	(10,450)	743	-	-
Other DfE	9	5,365	(5,348)	-	-	26
Other government	77	1,446	(1,504)	-	-	19
Other restricted	80	1,617	(1,667)	-	-	30
Pension reserve	-	-	233	-	(233)	-
	<u>341</u>	<u>17,960</u>	<u>(18,736)</u>	<u>743</u>	<u>(233)</u>	<u>75</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Intangible	4	-	(4)	-	-	-
Tangible	29,555	-	(1,118)	1,497	-	29,934
Salix loans	23	1,187	-	(1,210)	-	-
	<u>29,582</u>	<u>1,187</u>	<u>(1,122)</u>	<u>287</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>29,934</u>
Total Restricted funds	<u>29,923</u>	<u>19,147</u>	<u>(19,858)</u>	<u>1,030</u>	<u>(233)</u>	<u>30,009</u>
Total funds	<u>30,730</u>	<u>20,868</u>	<u>(21,250)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(233)</u>	<u>30,115</u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

23. Statement of funds (continued)

Total funds analysis by group entity

Fund balances at 31 August 2025 were allocated as follows:

	2025 £000	<i>2024 £000</i>
The Canterbury Academy	10	140
The Canterbury Primary School	-	36
The Canterbury Campus	200	-
Subsidiary reserves	17	5
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve	227	181
Restricted fixed asset fund	28,870	29,934
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	29,097	30,115
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Total cost analysis by group entity

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £000	Other support staff costs £000	Educational supplies £000	Other costs excluding depreciation £000	Total 2025 £000	<i>Total 2024 £000</i>
The Canterbury Academy	9,721	1,132	153	1,421	12,427	17,291
The Canterbury Primary School	1,988	159	39	182	2,368	2,474
The Canterbury Campus	1,733	1,630	37	2,217	5,617	-
Buckle Under Limited	-	-	-	1	1	1
City View Pre-School & Nurseries Limited	586	-	14	51	651	587
Pension (credit) / charge	-	(216)	-	-	(216)	(233)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Group total	14,028	2,705	243	3,872	20,848	20,120
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

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Notes to the Financial Statements
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24. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000
Tangible fixed assets	21	-	28,870	28,891
Current assets	202	1,278	-	1,480
Creditors due within one year	(16)	(1,258)	-	(1,274)
Total	207	20	28,870	29,097

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2024 £000</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2024 £000</i>	<i>Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £000</i>	<i>Total funds 2024 £000</i>
Tangible fixed assets	12	-	29,934	29,946
Current assets	180	1,472	-	1,652
Creditors due within one year	(86)	(1,397)	-	(1,483)
Total	106	75	29,934	30,115

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

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

	2025 £000	<i>2024</i> <i>£000</i>
Net expenditure for the year (as per Statement of financial activities)	(802)	(382)
Adjustments for:		
Amortisation	-	1
Depreciation	1,162	1,122
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	3
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(52)	(1,187)
Interest receivable	(24)	(40)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	(174)	(198)
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	(54)	(45)
Defined benefit pension scheme administration cost	12	10
Decrease in stocks	5	1
Decrease in debtors	104	111
Decrease in creditors	(209)	(256)
Net cash used in operating activities	(32)	(860)

26. Cash flows from investing activities

	Group 2025 £000	<i>Group</i> <i>2024</i> <i>£000</i>
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	24	40
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(107)	(1,499)
Capital grants from DfE Group	51	49
Capital funding received from sponsors and others	1	1,138
Net cash used in investing activities	(31)	(272)

27. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	Group 2025 £000	<i>Group</i> <i>2024</i> <i>£000</i>
Cash in hand and at bank	398	461
Total cash and cash equivalents	398	461

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

28. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2024 £000	Cash flows £000	At 31 August 2025 £000
Cash at bank and in hand	461	(63)	398
	<u>461</u>	<u>(63)</u>	<u>398</u>

29. Pension commitments

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

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

Contributions amounting to £318k were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2025 (2024 - £299k) and are included within creditors.

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 full-time teachers in academies. All teachers have the option to opt-out of the TPS following enrolment.

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

- employer contribution rates set at 28.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy)
- 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 revised employer contribution rate, arising from the 2020 valuation, was implemented from 1 April 2024. The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2027.

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Notes to the Financial Statements
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29. Pension commitments (continued)

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £1,867k (2024 - £1,706k).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website (<https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2023/10/valuation-result.aspx>)

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102, the TPS is an unfunded multi-employer pension scheme. The Group has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The Group has set out above the information available on the scheme.

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2025 was £1,014k (2024 - £991k), of which employer's contributions totalled £803k (2024 - £783k) and employees' contributions totalled £ 211k (2024 - £208k). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 22.5 per cent for employers and 5.5% to 12.5% per cent for employees.

As described in note the LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the academy trust, who were the employees transferred as part of the conversion from the maintained school and new employees who were eligible to, and did, join the Scheme in the year. The obligation in respect of employees who transferred on conversion represents their cumulative service at both the predecessor school and the academy trust at the balance sheet date.

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

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2025	2024
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.55	3.80
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.95	3.10
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	6.05	5.10
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.55	2.80

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

	2025	2024
	Years	Years
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	21.4	20.7
Females	23.7	23.2
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	23.0	22.0
Females	25.4	24.7

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29. Pension commitments (continued)

Sensitivity analysis

	2025	<i>2024</i>
	£000	<i>£000</i>
Discount rate +0.1%	(186)	(231)
Discount rate -0.1%	191	238
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	248	339
Mortality assumption - 1 year decrease	(242)	(330)
CPI rate +0.1%	184	226
CPI rate -0.1%	(179)	(219)

Share of scheme assets

The Group's share of the assets in the scheme was:

	At 31 August	<i>At 31 August</i>
	2025	<i>2024</i>
	£000	<i>£000</i>
Equities	8,624	7,286
Gilts	762	891
Corporate bonds	2,080	1,854
Property	1,143	1,180
Cash and other liquid assets	408	310
Other	1,392	1,242
Total market value of assets	14,409	<i>12,763</i>

The actual return on scheme assets was £926k (2024 - £880k).

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

	2025	<i>2024</i>
	£000	<i>£000</i>
Current service cost	(629)	(585)
Interest income	669	612
Interest cost	(615)	(567)
Administrative expenses	(12)	(10)
Total amount recognised in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities	(587)	<i>(550)</i>

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29. Pension commitments (continued)

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

	2025	2024
	£000	£000
At 1 September	12,086	10,733
Current service cost	629	585
Interest cost	615	567
Employee contributions	211	208
Actuarial (gains)/losses	(2,400)	287
Benefits paid	(282)	(294)
At 31 August	10,859	12,086

Changes in the fair value of the Group's share of scheme assets were as follows:

	2025	2024
	£000	£000
At 1 September	12,763	11,196
Interest income	669	612
Actuarial gains	257	268
Employer contributions	803	783
Employee contributions	211	208
Benefits paid	(282)	(294)
Administration expenses	(12)	(10)
At 31 August	14,409	12,763

30. Operating lease commitments

At 31 August 2025 the Group and the academy trust had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	Group	<i>Group</i>	Academy trust	<i>Academy trust</i>
	2025	<i>2024</i>	2025	<i>2024</i>
	£000	<i>£000</i>	£000	<i>£000</i>
Not later than 1 year	110	88	110	88
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	204	152	204	152
	314	<i>240</i>	314	<i>240</i>

31. Other financial commitments

The academy trust is committed to an operator agreement for its sports building from 1 September 2023 to 30 November 2042. The operator agreement is a cost of £126k per annum.

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Notes to the Financial Statements
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32. Financial instruments

	Group 2025 £000	<i>Group 2024 £000</i>	Academy trust 2025 £000	<i>Academy trust 2024 £000</i>
Financial assets				
Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure	398	461	328	391

Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure comprise cash at bank and in hand.

33. Agency arrangements

The academy trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for DfE. In the accounting period ending 31 August 2025 the academy trust received £167k and disbursed £129k from the fund. As at 31 August 2025, the unspent funding is £29k, and included in other creditors. Comparatives for the accounting period ending 31 August 2024 are £139k received, £100k disbursed, with total cumulative spent in advance of the 16-19 bursary fund of £8k, and included in other debtors.

The academy trust acts as agent for a local teaching school hub. During the year it received £20k (2024: £34k) and distributed £21k (2024: £33k). Current year undistributed funds of £nil (2024: £1k) are included in other creditors.

34. Members' liability

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

35. Controlling party

The academy trust is run by the senior management team on a day to day basis. Strategic decisions are made by the Trustees. There is no ultimate controlling party.

36. Net movement in funds of academy trust

As permitted by section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 and paragraph 397 of the SORP, the Statement of Financial Activities ('SOFA') of the parent company, The Canterbury Academy Trust, is not presented as part of these group financial statements. The parent company's net movement in funds for the year was an decrease of £1.03m (2024: a decrease of £638k).

The large increase in funds arises predominantly due to movements on the LGPS deficit reserve and movements in the restricted fixed asset reserve, both of which have no impact on the day-to-day operating activities. The parent company's movement on revenue income funds was an increase in funds of £34k (2024: increase of £991k).

37. Principal subsidiaries

The following were subsidiary undertakings of the academy trust:

Names	Company number	Principal activity	Holding	Included in consolidation
Buckle Under Limited	09189564	Holding Company	100%	Yes
City View Pre-School & Nurseries Limited	06760600	Pre-school education	100%	Yes

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

37. Principal subsidiaries (continued)

The financial results of the subsidiaries for the year were:

Names	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Profit/(Loss)/ Surplus/ (Deficit) for the year £000	Net assets £000
Buckle Under Limited	-	(1)	(1)	15
City View Pre-School & Nurseries Limited	734	(727)	7	12

The Canterbury Academy Trust has guaranteed the liabilities of its subsidiary, Buckle Under Limited, as it is exempt from audit under Section 479A of the Companies Act 2006.

38. Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the academy trust and the composition of the board of trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the trustees have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook (ATH), including notifying the DfE of all transactions 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 year the academy trust has reported the following contracts and other agreements with related parties to the DfE in advance of the contract or agreement commencing, using the DfE's related party on-line form:

	Income received £000	Expenditure incurred £000	Debtors recoverable £000	Creditors payable £000
i) Crusaders Community Basketball Limited (07734517)	-	96	-	-
ii) Marathon Sports Foundation Limited (06279459)	-	54	-	9
iii) Appeti Tennis Limited (04679995)	-	9	-	-
iv) Concordia Learning Alliance Ltd	69	125	68	6

i) Crusaders Community Basketball Limited is 100% owned by an individual who sits on the board of directors of Buckle Under Limited, the academy trust's subsidiary undertaking, and who is also part of the academy trust's key management personnel.

ii) Marathon Sports Foundation Limited is majority owed by a director of City View Pre-School & Nurseries Limited, an indirect subsidiary undertaking of the academy trust.

iii) Mr. A. Doyle, a member of the academy trust, is a director and has a controlling interest in Appeti Tennis Limited.

iv) Concordia Learning Alliance Ltd (CALL) is a collaboration with Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys and St Nicholas Special School to enhance education and achievement. Mr. J. Watson, a trustee and Accounting Officer, is a director of CALL, Mrs. B. Farrell, Trust Executive Vice Principal and member of key management, and Mr. M. Johnstone, the Chair of Trustees, are members of CALL.

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

38. Related party transactions (continued)

Transactions with group entities:

The following transactions took place with group entities during the year:

City View Pre-School & Nurseries Limited (06760600) is an indirect subsidiary of the academy trust, wholly owned by Buckle Under Limited. At 31 August 2025 City View Pre-School & Nurseries Limited owed £74k for recharges.

Employment related transactions:

The academy trust had the following employment related transactions:

During the year the wife of Mr. J. Watson, a trustee and the Accounting Officer, was employed by the trust. Mrs. S. Watson was paid a salary under an employment contract for her role. Mrs. S. Watson has been employed by the trust for a number of years and was not considered a related party at the time of her appointment, and Mr. J. Watson had no involvement in her appointment. The board of trustees are comfortable that her salary provides value for money and is not at a preferential rate.

Income related transactions:

The Canterbury Academy PTA (charity number 1165703), is a Parent Teacher Association set up for the benefit of the academy trust. During the year the PTA made a donation of £7,250 to the academy trust.