

Company registration number 08561302 (England and Wales)

The Learning Together Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual report and financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2025



The Learning Together Trust

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The Learning Together Trust

Reference and administrative details

Members

Rt Rev'd Philip North
Rev'd Canon Andrew Holliday
Mr Iain Parks
Mr Stuart Harrison
Rev'd Dawn Harrison

Trustees

Rev'd Canon Andrew Holliday
Mrs Carol Aspinall
Miss Jillian Hyde-Baron
Mr Andrew Stokes
Mr Paul Witkiewicz
Dr Sheila Fisher
Mrs Madeleine Digby

Senior management team

- Co-CEO and Accounting Officer
- Co-CEO
- Finance and Operations Director
- Head of School Improvement
- Head of System Leadership

Mr Stuart Colothan
Mrs Jennifer Woodcock
Mrs Rose Crompton
Mrs Leanne Morgan-Hillam
Mr Michael Rigby

Company registration number

08561302 (England and Wales)

Principal and registered office

The Learning Together Trust
Standish St Wilfrid's Church of England Primary
Rectory Lane
Wigan
WN6 0XB

Academies operated

St Wilfrid's CE Primary Academy
Canon Sharples CE Primary School and Nursery
St David Haigh and Aspull CE Primary School
Adlington St Paul's CE Primary School
Hesketh-with-Becconsall All Saints CE Primary School
Accrington Benjamin Hargreaves CE Primary School
St Wilfrid's Trading Company Ltd

Location

Wigan
Wigan
Wigan
Chorley
Hesketh Bank
Accrington
Wigan

Headteacher

Mr S Colothan
Mrs J Woodcock
Mrs J Woodcock
Mrs J Burger
Mrs R Sainsworth
Mr J Kewley
Canon A Holliday

Independent auditor

DJH Audit Limited
Bridge House
Ashley Road
Hale
Altrincham
WA14 2UT

Bankers

Lloyds Bank PLC, 2-6 Market Street, Wigan,
WN1 1JN

Solicitors

Eversheds Sutherland (International) LLP,
Bridgewater Place, Leeds, LS11 5DR

The Learning Together Trust

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 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 and strategic report under company law.

The Academy Trust operates six academies for pupils aged 3 to 11, serving a catchment area in the North West. It has pupil capacity of 1505 and had a roll of 1,284 in the School Census in October 2024.

Structure, governance and management **Constitution**

The original academy was incorporated on 7th June 2013 as a company limited by guarantee with no share capital, registration number: 08561302. The company commenced operation as an academy on 1st July 2013, following the conversion of St Wilfrid's Church of England Primary School. On 14th April 2015 the academy became a Multi Academy Trust trading as The Learning Together Trust. Canon Sharples CE Primary School and Nursery joined the Trust on the 1st July 2015, St. David Haigh and Aspull CE Primary School joined on 1st November 2018, Adlington St. Paul's Church of England Primary School joined on 1st January 2019, Hesketh-with-Beconsall All Saints CE Primary School joined on 1st February 2024 and Accrington Benjamin Hargreaves CE Primary School joined on 1st September 2024. The charitable company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the academy. The initial members of the charitable company were nominated by the governing body of St. Wilfrid's Church of England Primary School. The MAT trustees were nominated by the Dioceses of Blackburn and Liverpool. The Articles of Association require the members of the charitable company to be responsible for the statutory and constitutional affairs of the charitable company and the management of the academy.

The charitable company is known as The Learning Together Trust.

The trustees of The Learning Together Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. Details of the trustees who served during the year, and to the date these financial statements are approved, are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

Members' liability

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

Trustees' indemnities

Subject to the provisions of the Companies Act 2006, all trustees and officers are indemnified against any liability incurred by them in their capacity in defending any proceedings, whether civil or criminal, in which judgment is given in favour or in which they are acquitted or in connection with any application in which relief is granted to them by the court from liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the affairs of the academy trust.

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

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of trustees

Trust board members, who are the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law, are nominated by either, the Diocese of Blackburn or the Diocese of Liverpool and hold office for four years.

The Executive Headteachers of The Learning Together Trust act as Co-CEOs and are the executive reporting officers to the Trustees.

The Learning Together Trust

Trustees' report (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

Trustees are appointed based on the skills that they will bring to the board of Trustees or based on a proposal to the board of Trustees by representative groups. On appointment, Trustees receive information relating to the trust and receive an induction pack on the role and responsibilities of trustees.

The training and induction provided for new Trustees will depend on their existing experience. All new Trustees are given information about The Learning Together Trust and the academies within it, and are encouraged to visit the individual academies and meet with staff and children. All relevant Trustees are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as Trustees.

Organisational structure

Trustees are responsible for the strategic management of the academies; setting strategic direction, annual budgets, senior staff appointments, policy changes etc. Collectively, they make decisions on annual spending and set the budget for the year in liaison with the Executive Headteachers, Headteachers and Senior Leaders. They also offer expertise in curricular subjects, project management and capital bids. Trustees are responsible for the recruitment of staff; in particular, the appointment of the Executive Headteacher and Finance and Operations Director.

Trustees are supported in their work by Local Governing Boards at each school. The Trust has committees which comprise: St. Wilfrid's LGB, Canon Sharples and St. David's LGB, St. Paul's LGB, Hesketh-with-Beconsall All Saints LGB, Accrington Benjamin Hargreaves LGB, Performance & Standards and Finance & Audit.

The Co-CEOs are responsible for the strategic leadership of the Trust and Trust academies, with one undertaking the role of Accounting Officer. The daily management and organisation of each academy is led by the individual Executive Headteacher / Headteacher. They are supported by the senior leaders in each academy. The Finance and Operations Director has responsibility for finance, capital funding and academy administration. The Head of School Improvement is responsible for standards of teaching and learning, leading professional development and facilitating collaborative groups across the Trust. The Head of System Leadership is responsible for supporting leadership capacity, leading on directed projects and supporting with school improvement, attendance and compliance across the Trust.

Each academy's leadership team develop policies for approval by LGB or Trust Board. The Trustees are responsible for approving shared policy, including the vision, mission statement, aims and values of the Trust. Trust leaders provide information about the standards, curriculum, pupil outcomes and attendance for Trustee information and monitoring purposes. This is verified by external inspection and monitoring reports.

Through appraisal, Trust leaders challenge the senior leadership team and hold them to account regarding priorities for improvement set out in the Trust Strategic and School Development Plans, and individual school strategic and development plans. The School Development Plan is derived from a rigorous process of monitoring and evaluation and the school's self-evaluation.

The Board of Trustees meet twice each term to receive reports and manage its strategic objectives. The working committees also meet on a termly basis. Training is in place for the Trust Leaders and the Board of Trustees.

St. Wilfrid's Trading Company (08561316) is a subsidiary of the organisation, which owns 100 per cent of the share capital. The primary function of the company is the provision of childcare to children attending St. Wilfrid's Church of England Primary Academy.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

All pay and remuneration of the Trust and Academy's key management personnel is in line with the current National School Teachers Pay and Conditions Document and Wigan Council (Schools) Pay Policy.

The Learning Together Trust

Trustees' report (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	-
Full-time equivalent employee number	-

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	-
1%-50%	-
51%-99%	-
100%	-

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Total cost of facility time	-
Total pay bill	7,313,000
Percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time	-

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	-
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Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

St. Wilfrid's Church of England Primary Academy is the sponsor of Canon Sharples Church of England Primary School and Nursery, Adlington St. Paul's Church of England Primary School, Hesketh-with-Becconsall All Saints Church of England Primary School and Accrington Benjamin Hargreaves CE Primary School, providing school to school support to improve educational outcomes.

The Trust works closely with the Dioceses of Liverpool and Blackburn, parents and carers, our Foundation Parishes and Wigan LA / Lancashire LA to further the principal activities of the Trust. The Trust works closely with many school networks to further the principal activities of the Academies.

St Wilfrid's Trading Company is a trading subsidiary 100% owned by The Learning Together Trust as defined by the relevant Charities SORP. The Members, Directors, Trustees, senior staff and their families are regarded as related parties in accordance with the definitions in the Charities SORP.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The principal objective and aim of the charitable company is the operation of St Wilfrid's Church of England Primary Academy, Canon Sharples CE Primary and Nursery School, St. David Haigh and Aspull CE Primary School, Adlington St Paul's Church of England Primary School, Hesketh-with-Becconsall All Saints CE Primary School and Accrington Benjamin Hargreaves CE Primary School, to provide education for pupils between the ages of 3-11 years.

Objectives, strategies and activities

The schools provide an education for pupils who are preferentially drawn from the area in which the schools are situated, in line with the published admission policies. The Learning Together Trust was set up on 14th April 2015 to advance, for the public benefit, education in the Standish and Whelley areas of Wigan. St. Wilfrid's Church of England Primary Academy and Canon Sharples CE Primary School and Nursery offer a broad and balanced primary curriculum. Subsequently, St. David Haigh and Aspull CE Primary School, Adlington St. Paul's Church of England Primary School, Hesketh-with-Becconsall All Saints CE Primary School and Accrington Benjamin Hargreaves CE Primary School have joined the Trust. Each Academy's ethos and distinctiveness are firmly rooted in the Church of England.

The Learning Together Trust

Trustees' report (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

Our objective has been to maintain the traditional ethos, values, standards and achievements of each school, whilst continuing to work to fulfil the school's medium and longer-term development plans. The success of each academy is measured against pupil outcomes, monitoring and evaluation, and external validation.

Our Trust Vision:

'With God, all things are possible.' Matthew 19:26

1. Our children will be Resilient, Respectful, Responsible, Reflective and Ready to thrive and succeed in life
2. Our schools will be Resourced with the 'best' staff
3. Our Trust will have a Reputation for Excellence:
 - School of choice
 - Employer of choice
 - Trust of choice

Our Trust Mission Statement:

'Learning Together...to achieve success for all God's children.'

With Christ at the centre of all that we do, we will create a culture of collaboration and excellence and take our Trust on a journey of growth and success.

Our Trust Aims:

'I can do things you cannot, You can do things I cannot, Together we can do great things.'
Mother Teresa

1. To inspire children through the highest quality education, underpinned by Trust Values and Christian Distinctiveness.
2. To recruit excellence through reputation and collaboration.
3. To retain quality and 'Manage Talent' through enthusing, enabling and empowering.
4. To provide all schools with the pastoral care, support network, resources and developmental challenge to add value.

Our Trust Values:

Our Christian Values, which are rooted in scripture, are at the heart of our Schools and our Trust. They help us to live out the Church of England Christian Vision of 'Life in all its Fullness'.

Trust: 'The Lord is your strength and shield. Trust Him.' Psalm 28:7

Love: 'Let all that you do be done in Love.' 1 Corinthians 16:14

Hope: 'Always put your Hope in God.' Psalm 42:5

Public benefit

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

The key public benefit delivered by the Learning Together Trust is the maintenance and development of the high-quality education provided by the academies, to the children of Wigan and Lancashire.

In doing this, The Learning Together Trust not only offers a high-quality education, but aims to develop the whole child. A wide-range of extra-curricular activities, enrichment opportunities and unique experiences are provided to children in all Trust Academies.

The Learning Together Trust is continually looking to expand to reach as many children as possible to improve their quality of life.

Strategic decisions are based on the long-term objective of growth for the Trust, maximising the number of children whose life chances can be improved.

The Learning Together Trust

Trustees' report (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

The academic year 2024 to 2025, was extremely successful for the Learning Together Trust, where children and staff flourished.

The Trust schools enjoyed close links with their respective church school communities and Dioceses. Staff and children from each school have supported a range of local and global charities. Trust and School leaders continued to prioritise wellbeing for all.

Trust and School leaders have continued to implement the 3Es, including offering a broad range of extra-curricular clubs, enjoying success in local, regional and national sporting competitions, enhancing our curriculum through enrichment (visits, visitors and residential) and providing our children with a menu of Trust experiences to develop cultural capital.

St. Wilfrid's Church of England Primary Academy is part of Blackburn Diocese. The school's Christian Vision is 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.' Philipians 4:13. The Christian Values of Courage, Fair, Forgive, Hope, Joy, Kind, Peace, Trust and Love underpin all aspects of school life at St. Wilfrid's.

School leaders have developed a broad and balanced 'Literacy-Rich' Curriculum that meets the needs of the children in the Church Community. The curriculum is designed to motivate, inspire, engage and challenge children, through deepening knowledge and developing skills. This is further enhanced by the recently developed three Es: Enrichment (inspirational visitors, educational visitors and events), Extra-Curricular (committees, clubs and competitions) and Experiences (experiences to develop cultural capital).

In April 2024, the Primary School League Table 2025 was published by 'School Guide', a UK-based platform that provides information about schools nationally. Primary schools are ranked using the most up-to-date, official government figures, including performance data and test results, alongside Ofsted inspection reports, accurate catchment area mapping and parental feedback. Schools Guide also provides a star rating, giving parents an instant summary of performance based on the latest official data, and a Primary School League Table, allowing parents to find and compare schools.

St. Wilfrid's Church of England Academy received a 5-star rating and is ranked the 15th Best State Primary School in England, where there are over 16,700 Primary Schools. Within the top 20 ranked best schools, only two schools, including St. Wilfrid's are in the North of England (the other in Altrincham), one in the Midlands and 17 are in the South of England.

St. Wilfrid's continues to maintain and further improve its academic standards, with children achieving exceptionally well and making excellent progress at each stage of their education. Outcomes at the end of each key stage are outstanding, with children performing significantly above National in all areas.

Canon Sharples Church of England Primary School and Nursery, part of the Liverpool Diocese, is guided by the Christian vision "Trust God. Love Always. Aim High" and upholds the core values of Fellowship, Friendship, Respect, Peace, Trust, and Love.

The most recent SIAMS inspection affirmed the school's commitment to its Church of England foundation, highlighting that "Leadership at all levels, including directors and governors, enriches the lives of all within the school."

The school prioritises personal development, ensuring all pupils are supported to thrive. Through the 'Three E's' approach—Enrich, Extra-curricular, Experience—students benefit from educational visits, high-quality extracurricular opportunities, and experiences that build cultural capital and prepare them for future learning and employment.

Canon Sharples CE is an inclusive setting that delivers high-quality teaching through the four-stage Cornerstone Curriculum: Engage, Develop, Innovate, and Express. This model fosters deep learning and long-term knowledge retention.

The Learning Together Trust

Trustees' report (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

As a recognised Thrive School of Excellence, the school provides targeted support for pupils' social and emotional development, contributing to improved wellbeing across the community.

Academic outcomes at the end of Key Stage 2 are in line with national averages and continue to show improvement. Attendance rates align with both local and national benchmarks, with persistent absence below the national average for 2024–25.

St David Haigh and Aspall CofE Primary School, part of the Liverpool Diocese, is deeply rooted in Christian values and vision. Guided by the biblical principle, "Stand firm in the faith; be courageous, be strong" (1 Corinthians 16:13), the school fosters a culture of resilience, compassion, and integrity. The core Christian values of Friendship, Wisdom, Trust, Hope, and Endurance are woven into every aspect of school life, creating a nurturing environment where children feel safe, valued, and inspired to grow.

The school places strong emphasis on personal development through meaningful community engagement. Families are welcomed into the life of the school through events such as Church Services and celebrations, strengthening the sense of belonging and shared purpose. Initiatives like 'Stay and Play' for children aged 0–5 promote early relationships and community cohesion through joyful activities like singing and dancing. Educational visits, including those to the scenic Haigh Hall, are designed to spark awe and wonder, enriching pupils' learning experiences beyond the classroom.

Inclusion is a cornerstone of the school's ethos. St David's actively promotes understanding of neurodiversity through awareness days and inclusive sporting events such as 'Just Join In.' These efforts ensure that every child feels seen and supported, regardless of their individual needs or background. The school's inclusive practices cultivate empathy and respect among pupils, preparing them to be thoughtful and responsible citizens.

Academically, St David's stands out for its exceptional outcomes. Pupils achieve results in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 that are significantly above both local and national averages. This success is a testament to the school's commitment to high-quality teaching, a supportive learning environment, and the holistic development of every child.

Adlington St. Paul's continues to flourish as a proud member of the Blackburn Diocese and the Learning Together Trust family. Rooted in the Christian vision, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart" (Colossians 3:23), and guided by the values of Community, Hope, Compassion, Forgiveness, Perseverance and Respect, the school provides a nurturing and ambitious environment where every child is encouraged to develop academically, socially and spiritually.

The curriculum remains broad, balanced and aspirational for all learners. It is continually refined to meet the needs of the school community and to promote high ambition for every pupil. Reading continues to be a central priority, with engagement and attainment improving across all year groups. Enrichment opportunities and a strong focus on personal development ensure that learning is both meaningful and memorable.

Standards across the school remain strong, particularly in reading and mathematics, where outcomes are consistently above or broadly in line with national figures. Key Stage 2 outcomes in reading and combined reading, writing and mathematics were especially positive, with pupils significantly outperforming national averages. Early Years, phonics and Key Stage 1 outcomes also remain strong, demonstrating that pupils get off to a secure and confident start in their learning journey.

Targeted support and adaptive teaching ensure that pupils with additional needs make sustained progress, while the inclusive ethos of the school promotes equity and high expectations for all. Staff expertise and professional growth remain key strengths; colleagues have engaged in National Professional Qualifications, Trust-wide subject networks and collaborative research projects, further enhancing leadership capacity and classroom practice. The wellbeing of staff and pupils continues to be a clear priority, reflected in the school's positive culture, teamwork and shared sense of purpose.

The Learning Together Trust

Trustees' report (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

The school's partnership with its parish, families and wider community continues to thrive, underpinning its distinctive Christian character. Safeguarding systems are robust and regularly reviewed, and attendance has improved through proactive family engagement. With a strong reputation locally and within the Trust, Adlington St. Paul's continues to go from strength to strength—an inclusive and aspirational school where staff flourish and children thrive.

Hesketh-with-Becconsall All Saints Church of England Primary School is part of Blackburn Diocese. The school's Christian Vision is 'We are God's handiwork, created in Christ to do good works.' from Ephesians 2:10, which is easily remembered as 'What you are is God's gift to you, what you become is your gift to God', supported through their Christian Values: Love, Responsibility, Determination, Honesty, Loyalty, Respect and Friendship.

All Saints believe every child and member of staff is God's unique handiwork, created with love and purpose. Guided by Christ, they nurture hearts and minds so that all can flourish and thrive, feel that they belong, shine their light and live out the good works God has prepared for them. This will lead to the school becoming a place of joy, hope, and excellence, where every individual grows in wisdom, character and faith, and where together we make a difference to our community and God's world.

The school has continued their rapid journey of improvement receiving intensive support and direction from the Central Trust team to make significant progress. By investing in high quality professional development for staff, two members of staff completed NPQLT (National Professional Qualification: Leading on Teaching) and three members of staff completed EYPDP (Early Years Professional Development Programme); both opportunities allowing staff to flourish whilst targeting specific Key Improvement Points from the last Inspection.

Accrington Benjamin Hargreaves C.E. Primary School is proud to be part of the Blackburn Diocese. The vision, "Together, in God's love, we aspire to shine and succeed in all that we do," is rooted in 1 Corinthians 16:14 — "Let all that you do be done in love." The core Christian values of love, kindness, forgiveness, honesty, respect, and compassion shape every aspect of the school community.

The school converted to academy status and joined the Learning Together Trust family of schools on 1st September 2024, with a new Headteacher appointed from 1st January 2025.

Accrington Benjamin Hargreaves is firmly on a rapid improvement journey. The School Improvement Plan set out clear strategic priorities to raise standards and strengthen the consistency of teaching and learning. A key focus was to align the entire school community behind a shared vision and culture.

Staff report feeling happier and more supported in their roles, and this renewed sense of purpose is reflected in the positive attitudes and behaviour of pupils. Feedback from parents and carers has also been encouraging.

Due to the school's PAN and class structure, curriculum planning requires a flexible and creative approach. The curriculum intent has been refined to ensure that every pupil receives their full National Curriculum entitlement, regardless of class organisation. There is an established and sustainable model, with an annual review cycle in place to maintain alignment between curriculum design and class structure.

End of academic year 2025 outcomes show that the school performed in line with or above national averages across all statutory assessments, with the exception of the Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check.

Achievement 2024 - 2025

EYFS – GLD (Good Level of Development: 3 Prime Areas of Communication and Language, Physical Development and Personal, Social and Emotional Development + Specific Learning Goals of Literacy and Maths)

St. Wilfrid's	Canon Sharples	St. David's	St. Paul's	All Saints	Benjamin Hargreaves	Consolidated	National 2025
66/81 81%	22/35 63%	8/13 62%	15/20 75%	25/31 81%	4/8 50%	140/188 74%	68%

The Learning Together Trust

Trustees' report (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

Year 1 Phonics (WA)

St. Wilfrid's	Canon Sharples	St. David's	St. Paul's	All Saints	Benjamin Hargreaves	Consolidated	National 2025
69/78 88%	31/40 78%	14/15 93%	21/24 88%	18/21 90%	19/23 83%	172/201 86%	80%

Year 2 Phonics Cumulative (WA)

St. Wilfrid's	Canon Sharples	St. David's	St. Paul's	All Saints	Benjamin Hargreaves	Consolidated	National 2025
74/75 99%	46/50 92%	12/12 100%	22/22 100%	24/27 89%	18/19 95%	196/205 97%	N/A

End of KS2

	Att.	St. Wilfrid's	Canon Sharples	St. David's	St. Paul's	All Saints	Benjamin Hargreaves	Consolidated	National 2025
Reading	EXP	75/81 93%	30/43 70%	15/16 94%	24/27 89%	10/17 59%	18/23 78%	172/207 83%	75%
Writing	EXP	75/81 93%	28/43 65%	14/16 88%	20/27 74%	12/17 71%	19/23 83%	168/207 81%	72%
Maths	EXP	72/81 89%	29/43 67%	15/16 94%	20/27 74%	10/17 59%	17/23 74%	163/207 79%	74%
RWM	EXP	68/81 84%	25/43 58%	14/16 88%	19/27 70%	6/17 35%	17/23 74%	149/207 72%	62%
EGPS	EXP	69/81 85%	28/43 65%	15/16 94%	22/27 81%	11/17 65%	18/23 78%	163/207 79%	73%
Reading	HS	34/81 42%	8/43 19%	10/16 63%	15/27 56%	1/17 6%	7/23 30%	75/207 36%	33%
Writing	GD	34/81 42%	9/43 21%	5/16 31%	6/27 22%	0/17 0%	3/23 13%	57/207 28%	13%
Maths	HS	36/81 44%	7/43 16%	9/16 56%	7/27 26%	0/17 0%	6/23 26%	65/207 31%	26%
RWM	HS	20/81 25%	2/43 5%	5/16 31%	3/27 11%	0/17 0%	2/23 9%	31/207 15%	8%
EGPS	HS	38/81 47%	11/43 26%	10/16 63%	9/27 33%	1/17 6%	5/23 22%	71/207 36%	29%

*HS Higher Standard based on a scaled score of 110

Key Performance Indicators

Strategic Plan 2021/2022 -2024/2025

1) School Improvement and Outcomes:

- At the end of each statutory reporting point, consolidated data is above National in Reading, Writing and Maths.
- Disadvantaged pupils made strong progress across the Trust.
- Teaching was highly effective in established schools across the Trust.
- St. Wilfrid's Church of England Academy is ranked the 15th Best State Primary School in England in the School Guide, a UK-based platform that provides information about schools nationally.

The Learning Together Trust

Trustees' report (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

2) People Strategy:

- Deputy Headteacher, Mrs. K. Newman, has successfully completed the National Professional Qualification in Headship.
- Assistant Headteacher, Mrs. E. Speakman, has completed the National Professional Qualification in Headship and is awaiting the outcome.
- 12 members of staff from across Learning Together Trust have successfully completed the National Professional Qualification in Leading Teaching, which was facilitated by our Co-CEO Mrs. Jennifer Woodcock, and Head of School Improvement Mrs. Leanne Morgan-Hillam.
- Staff across Learning Together Trust have engaged in other National Professional Qualifications, including SEND and Early Years.

3) Partnership Development:

- Learning Together Trust has established links with other Trusts nationally.
- Learning Together Trust is an active member of the Church of England 'Flourishing Trust Network'.
- Learning Together Trust central team lead collaborative groups beyond our Trust.
- Executive Headteacher, Mr. S. Colothan, is on a Strategic Board at Edge Hill University.
- Co-CEOs have successfully mentored and coached mentees from the 'Leaders Like Us' Programme to support aspiring senior leaders from UKME/ GMH backgrounds, throughout the country, with the aim of enabling them to progress to headship.
- Learning Together Trust continue to work at both a local and national level on promoting 'Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Justice' within the schools.

4) Trust Leadership and Governance:

- Learning Together Trust School Improvement Teams meet routinely and undertake pieces of work within the Trust.
- Learning Together Trust launched the year of 'Embracing and Transforming' at the beginning of January 2025, with a focus on the importance of embracing change and being a catalyst for transformation within our communities.
- Learning Together Trust welcomed an enthusiastic Local Governing Board from Accrington Benjamin Hargreaves in September 2024.

5) Business Development and Finance:

- Number of pupils on roll, including Nursery, have increased.
- Learning Together Trust applied for a significant change for the age range at St. David's and will introduce 3-year-old provision in September 2025.
- The Trust has set a balanced budget for 2025 – 2026, without reliance on prior year surplus.
- Reserves held ensure that the Trust is in a strong financial position.
- Learning Together Trust has continued to engage with a Schools Resource Management Advisor, under the mentoring programme.
- Robust independent internal scrutiny has assured the Trust Board of strong financial compliance.

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the board of trustees has a reasonable expectation that the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, the board of trustees 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.

Financial review

Most of the trusts income is obtained from the Department for Education (DfE) in the form of recurrent grants to each school, some of which is restricted to purposes. The grants received from the DfE during the year ended 31st August 2025 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the statement of financial activities.

The Trust's financial position for the year to 31 August 2025 (excluding donations from local authority on conversion) demonstrates total income of £10,403k (2024: £8,317k) with a surplus for the year of 304k (2024: deficit of £95k), excluding actuarial movements on the LGPS pension reserve). The surplus has been allocated to reserves.

The Learning Together Trust

Trustees' report (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

The principal financial management policies adopted in the year are:

- regular financial reviews of income and expenditure versus planned budgets at Finance and Audit committee meetings; and
- consideration as to whether income streams demonstrate a robust and stable position to continue to enable the provision of resources of sufficient quality to fulfil the academy's educational obligations.

The reserves will be utilised for supporting the staffing structure and for future planned premises development.

Reserves policy

The Trustees review the reserve levels of each academy annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure stream, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The Trustees have determined that the appropriate level of free reserves should be equivalent of up to 1 month of the GAG plus sufficient Trust contribution to support Condition Improvement Fund bids, approximately £453k. The reason for this is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance.

Free reserves as at 31 August 2025 were £819k (2024: £481k).

Investment policy

In a period of financial uncertainty and low interest rates, the Learning Together Trusts policy has been to maximise liquidity and minimise risk. The academy had no financial investments during the financial year ended 31 August 2025. The policy will be kept under review.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The Trustees have identified the major risks to which the Trust is exposed and documented this in a working Risk Register. The Trustees have implemented a number of systems to mitigate risks that the academies face, especially in the operational areas and in relation to the control of finance. Where significant financial risk still remains, Trustees have ensured that they have adequate insurance cover. The academies have an effective system of internal financial controls and this is explained in more detail in the following statement:

Internal audit (School Business Services) was appointed for the financial year 2024 – 2025 and their role included giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Trust financial systems. The Trust confirms that this function has been fully delivered in line with DfE's requirements and no material control issues were identified.

The Trustees have identified the following principal risks and uncertainties facing The Learning Together Trust:

Staff

- Losing an industrial tribunal case brought by an employee.
- Costs incurred due to a long-term absence of a member of staff
- Loss of key staff
- Being unable to recruit staff

Governance

- Trust Board lacks relevant skills or commitment.
- Directors have conflicts of interest

The Learning Together Trust

Trustees' report (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

Admissions

- Planned admission numbers not met

Premises

- Prosecution following non-compliance with premises-related Health & Safety issues.
- Inadequate servicing and maintenance leads to significant future expenditure
- Accident of a pupil / member of staff / member of the public results in a claim against the school.
- Land and/or Building owners invoke their right to terminate the lease in accordance with the Church Supplemental Agreement

Financial

- Failing to prepare a coherent and manageable Revenue and Capital budget.
- Becoming financially insecure due to poor financial control, falling roll or other factors.
- Not complying with corporate and charitable statutory requirements in respect of accounting, filing of accounts, VAT and deductions of income tax.
- Not complying with changes in financial operating and funding procedures advised by Department for Education.
- Fraudulent activity due to lack of control.
- LGPS deficit impacts adversely on budgets
- Termination of Funding Agreement by the Secretary of State

Curriculum and Standards

- Failure of a school may affect the reputation of our Trust
- Decline in results and/or negative aspects of a statutory inspection

Pupil

- Safeguarding incidents within and outside school for pupils
- High numbers/ proportion of SEND pupils/ behaviour concerns where children need to be supported with high levels of staff without funding prior to EHCP or without fully costed funding in receipt of EHCP

Other

- Schools in our Trust become inward facing within the local and wider community
- Back office Central Services cannot support Trust Growth
- Management information systems failure
- Increased layers of management could increase bureaucracy
- Non-GDPR compliance
- Negative publicity in media and social media.
- Extreme weather conditions, including climate change
- Pandemics
- Cyber-related incidents

Financial and risk management objectives and policies

The academy trust's activities expose it primarily to cash flow risk. The Board of Trustees continually monitor cash flows to ensure The Learning Together Trust and subsequently each academy has sufficient funds available to meet commitments as they fall due. The Board of Trustees maintain sufficient cash reserves at all times.

The Board of Trustees acknowledge the defined benefit pension scheme deficit. It considers that the Trust is able to meet its known contribution commitments for the foreseeable future.

The Learning Together Trust

Trustees' report (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

Fundraising

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

Plans for future periods

The Learning Together Trust overarching aims for 2021/2022 – 2024/2025 are:

- 1) **School Improvement and Outcomes:** Advance education for all, improving outcomes for children and leading our schools on a journey to excellence.
- 2) **People Strategy:** Build sustainable workforce infrastructures enabling all to flourish, both professionally and personally.
- 3) **Partnership Development:** Engage in 'deep collaboration' and nurture mutually beneficial relationships and partnerships, both within our Trust family and beyond.
- 4) **Trust Leadership and Governance:** Build a 'Strong Trust', with highly effective leadership and 'expert' governance, enabling all schools to thrive.
- 5) **Business Development and Finance:** Conduct stringent and rigorous financial and operational leadership and achieve value for money.

Auditor

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

A resolution proposing that DJH Audit Limited be reappointed as auditor of the charitable company will be put to the members.

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 11 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Jillian Hyde-Baron
Vice Chair of Trustees

The Learning Together Trust

Governance statement

For the year ended 31 August 2025

Scope of responsibility

As trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that The Learning Together 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 the DfE's Governance Guide.

The board of trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Co-CEO's, 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 Learning Together Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. The accounting officer is 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 6 times during the year.

Committees comprising of the Local Governing Board of each school, Finance and Audit Committee and Performance and Standards Committee also meet each term and receive detailed reports from the Trust Leadership Team.

Full Board

	Meetings Attended	Out of a Possible
Mrs Carol Aspinall	4	6
Mr Stuart Colothan (Co-CEO)	6	6
Mrs Rose Crompton (FOD)	6	6
Wigan Governor Services (Clerk)	6	6
Mrs Madeleine Digby (co-opted)	6	6
Dr. Sheila Fisher (co-opted)	5	6
Rev Andrew Holliday (Chair)	6	6
Miss Jillian Hyde-Baron	6	6
Mrs Leanne Morgan-Hillam (HOSI)	5	6
Mr Michael Rigby (HOSL)	5	6
Mr Andrew Stokes	6	6
Mr Paul Witkiewicz	3	6
Mrs Jennifer Woodcock (Co-CEO)	5	6

The Learning Together Trust

Governance statement (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

Performance and Standards Committee

	Meetings Attended	Out of a Possible
Mrs Carol Aspinall (Chair)	3	3
Mr Stuart Colothan (Co-CEO)	3	3
Wigan Governor Services (Clerk)	3	3
Dr. Sheila Fisher (co-opted)	3	3
Rev Andrew Holiday	2	3
Miss Jillian Hyde-Baron	3	3
Mrs Leanne Morgan-Hillam (HOSI)	3	3
Mr Michael Rigby (HOSL)	3	3
Mrs Jennifer Woodcock (Co-CEO)	3	3

Finance and Audit Committee

	Meetings Attended	Out of a Possible
Mr Stuart Colothan (Co-CEO)	3	3
Mrs Rose Crompton (FOD)	3	3
Wigan Governor Services (Clerk)	3	3
Mrs Madeleine Digby (co-opted)	2	3
Mr Andrew Stokes	3	3
Mr Paul Witkiewicz (Chair)	3	3
Mrs Jennifer Woodcock (Co-CEO)	3	3

There have been no issues arising from any financial reports submitted to the DfE during this time.

Conflicts of interest

Learning Together Trust manages conflicts of interest by having a clear policy which encourages regular disclosure from Members, Directors, Governors and Staff. We implement specific actions when a conflict arises, such as withdrawing from discussions or meetings. Our policy details clear key steps including the register of interests, declaring conflicts at the start of meetings, documenting any declared conflicts and how they are handled, and potentially removing the conflicted individual from meetings. These same principles are applied to our Trading Subsidiary.

The Learning Together Trust

Governance statement (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

Governance reviews

The Directors of Learning Together Trust undertake a skills audit on an annual basis in order to identify the strengths and weakness in the skillset of the Board. The information is collated and used to inform the skillset required of any new Foundation Director or Co-opted Director appointments. Training needs are also identified annually in the current cohort of Board members, and appropriate training is procured to mitigate any gaps. The Trust undertook an external review of Governance in 2022 and have been systematically addressing any actions identified. This has impacted the strategic leadership of the Trust and a considered process when Director appointments are made. The Board plan a further review in 2026.

Review of value for money

As accounting officer, the named Co-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 or by using a framework where appropriate. The accounting officer for the academy trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- Sharing of specialist provision, including staff expertise and resources.
- Collaborative working groups e.g. subject leadership, moderation, triads etc.
- School Improvement Teams undertaking internal reviews.
- Joint conferences, staff training and development days.
- Facilitating National Professional Qualifications.
- Income generation through the offer of commissioned projects by members of the Central Trust Team.

Improving Educational and Wider Outcomes for Pupils

Examples of activities to improve education include:

- Sharing of specialist provision, including staff expertise and resources.
- Shared executive leadership from the Executive Headteachers, Finance and Operations Director, Head of School Improvement and Head of System Leadership.
- Centrally employed staff, including admin and IT support.
- Collaboration in the advancement of IT delivering economies of scale through shared contractors.
- Joint staff training and development days.
- School to school support and collaboration.
- Trust Experiences and Events e.g. The Arts (Dance Festival) and Sport.
- Support for external schools.

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 Learning Together Trust for the period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

The Learning Together Trust

Governance statement (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

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 ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2024 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 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 and Audit Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines; delegation of authority and segregation of duties; and
- identification and management of risks.

The Board of Trustees has appointed SBS, as internal auditors. The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial and other matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy Trust's financial and other systems, in particular checks carried out in the current period include:

- testing of recruitment processes
- testing of statutory compliance
- testing of payroll
- testing of control account/bank reconciliations

On a termly basis, the auditor reports to the Board of Trustees, through the Finance and Audit Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities and annually prepare a summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

Review of effectiveness

As accounting officer, the named Co-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 external auditor;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process; and
- the work of the Finance and Operations Director within the Trust who has responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- the work of the internal scrutiny function.
- the correspondence from the DfE

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

The Learning Together Trust

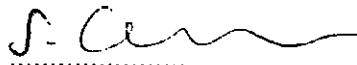
Governance statement (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

Conclusion

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

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 11 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr S Colothan
Accounting Officer



Jillian Hyde-Baron
Vice Chair of Trustees

The Learning Together Trust

Statement of regularity, propriety and compliance

For the year ended 31 August 2025

As accounting officer of The Learning Together 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 Department for Education (DfE), and the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook, including responsibilities for estates safety and management. I have also considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust board of trustees and DfE of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management.

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

I confirm that the following instances of material irregularity, impropriety or non-compliance have been discovered to date and have been notified to the board of trustees and DfE. If any instances are identified after the date of this statement, these will be notified to the board of trustees and DfE:

Non-financial issues:

- Related party transactions - the academy trust failed to notify the DfE of related party transactions in advance of the contracts commencing as required by the Academy Trust Handbook 2024.



.....
Mr S Colothan
Accounting Officer

11 December 2025

The Learning Together Trust

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

For the year ended 31 August 2025

The trustees (who are also the directors of The Learning Together Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 published by the Department for Education, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its 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 in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

The trustees are responsible for ensuring that in its conduct and operation the charitable company applies financial and other controls, which conform with the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring that grants received from ESFA/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 charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 11 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Jillian Hyde-Baron
Vice Chair of Trustees

The Learning Together Trust

Independent auditor's report on the financial statements to the members of The Learning Together Trust

For the year ended 31 August 2025

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Learning Together Trust (the 'parent academy trust') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 August 2025 which comprise the group statement of financial activities, the group balance sheet, the academy balance sheet, the group statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), 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 parent academy trust's affairs as at [date], 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;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the group and 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 auditor's 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 Learning Together Trust

Independent auditor's report on the financial statements to the members of The Learning Together Trust (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the trustees' report including the incorporated strategic report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report including the incorporated strategic report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and parent academy trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report and the directors' report.

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent academy trust, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent academy trust's 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 trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors of the parent 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 and 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 parent academy trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

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.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

The Learning Together Trust

Independent auditor's report on the financial statements to the members of The Learning Together Trust (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the group's or the parent charitable company's financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the group's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the group's or parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the group or parent charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation (ie. gives a true and fair view).
- Plan and perform the group audit to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business units within the group as a basis for an opinion on the group financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and review of the audit work performed for the purposes of the group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

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

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

Use of our report

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

DJH Audit Limited

Melanie Bailey (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of DJH Audit Limited, Statutory Auditor
Bridge House
Ashley Road
Hale
Altrincham
WA14 2UT

Date: 11/12/25

The Learning Together Trust

Independent reporting accountant's report on regularity to The Learning Together Trust and the Secretary of State for Education

For the year ended 31 August 2025

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 5 March 2025 and further to the requirements of the Department for Education (DfE) as included in the extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether anything has come to our attention that would suggest, in all material respects, the expenditure disbursed and income received by The Learning Together Trust during the period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 have not been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to The Learning Together 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 Learning Together 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 Learning Together Trust and the Secretary of State for Education, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the accounting officer of The Learning Together Trust and the reporting accountant

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

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

Approach

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

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

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

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

The Learning Together Trust

Independent reporting accountant's report on regularity to The Learning Together Trust and the Secretary of State for Education (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- We have confirmed that the activities conform to the academy trust's framework of authorities. As identified by review of minutes, management accounts, discussion with the accounting officer and other key management personnel.
- We have carried out an analytical review as part of the consideration of whether general activities of the academy trust are within the academy trust's framework of authorities.
- We have considered the evidence supporting the accounting officer's statement on regularity, propriety and compliance and have evaluated the general control environment of the academy trust and extended the procedures required for financial statements to include regularity.
- We have assessed and tested a sample of the specific control activities over regularity of a particular activity. In performing sample testing of expenditure, we have considered whether the activity is permissible within the academy trust's framework of authorities. We confirm that each item tested has been appropriately authorised in accordance with the academy trust's delegated authorities and that the internal delegations have been approved by the board of trustees, and conform to the limits set by the Department for Education.
- Formal representations have been obtained from the board of trustees and the accounting officer acknowledging their responsibilities including disclosing all non-compliance with laws and regulations specific to the authorising framework, access to accounting records, provision of information and explanations, and other matters where direct evidence is not available.
- In performing sample testing of expenditure, we have reviewed against specific terms of grant funding within the funding agreement. We have reviewed the list of suppliers and have considered whether supplies are from related parties and have reviewed minutes for evidence of declaration of interest, and whether or not there was involvement in the decision to order from this supplier.
- We have performed sample testing of other income and tested whether activities are permitted within the academy trust's charitable objects.

Conclusion

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

- Related party transactions - the academy trust failed to notify the DfE of related party transactions in advance of the contracts commencing as required by the Academy Trust Handbook 2024.

DJH Audit Limited

Reporting Accountant

DJH Audit Limited

Date: 11/12/25

The Learning Together Trust

Group statement of financial activities including income and expenditure account

For the year ended 31 August 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds: General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	Total 2025 £'000	Total 2024 £'000
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	15	49	41	105	74
Donations - transfer from local authority on conversion	24	-	232	-	232	304
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	9,466	-	9,466	7,738
- St Wilfrid's Trading Company Ltd		257	-	-	257	247
Other trading activities	5	430	145	-	575	258
Total		<u>702</u>	<u>9,892</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>10,635</u>	<u>8,621</u>
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	8	61	9,736	29	9,826	8,170
- St Wilfrid's Trading Company Ltd		273	-	-	273	242
Total	6	<u>334</u>	<u>9,736</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>10,099</u>	<u>8,412</u>
Net income		368	156	12	536	209
Transfers between funds	16	(250)	311	(61)	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension schemes	18	-	(263)	-	(263)	(304)
Net movement in funds		118	204	(49)	273	(95)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		493	98	97	688	783
Total funds carried forward		<u>611</u>	<u>302</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>961</u>	<u>688</u>

The Learning Together Trust

Group statement of financial activities (continued) including income and expenditure account

For the year ended 31 August 2025

Comparative year information Year ended 31 August 2024		Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds: General Fixed asset £'000 £'000		Total 2024 £'000
	Notes				
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	3	-	71	74
Donations - transfer from local authority on conversion	24	4	300	-	304
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	367	7,618	-	7,985
Other trading activities	5	258	-	-	258
Total		<u>632</u>	<u>7,918</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>8,621</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	8	608	7,774	30	8,412
Total	6	<u>608</u>	<u>7,774</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>8,412</u>
Net income		24	144	41	209
Transfers between funds	16	(70)	253	(183)	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension schemes	18	-	(304)	-	(304)
Net movement in funds		(46)	93	(142)	(95)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		<u>539</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>239</u>	<u>783</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>493</u>	<u>98</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>688</u>

The Learning Together Trust

Group balance sheet

As at 31 August 2025

		2025	2024
	Notes	£'000	£'000
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	48	61
Current assets			
Debtors	13	472	246
Cash at bank and in hand		736	792
		1,208	1,038
Current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(295)	(411)
Net current assets		913	627
Net assets excluding pension asset		961	688
Defined benefit pension scheme asset	18	-	-
Total net assets		961	688
Funds of the academy trust:			
Restricted funds	16		
- Fixed asset funds		48	97
- Restricted income funds		302	98
Total restricted funds		350	195
Unrestricted income funds	16	611	493
Total funds		961	688

The financial statements were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 11 December 2025 and are signed on their behalf by:



Jillian Hyde-Baron
Vice Chair of Trustees

Company registration number 08561302 (England and Wales)


The Learning Together Trust

Academy balance sheet

As at 31 August 2025

		2025		2024	
	Notes	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		48		61
Current assets					
Debtors	13	511		261	
Cash at bank and in hand		602		667	
		1,113		928	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(295)		(411)	
Net current assets			818		517
Net assets excluding pension asset			866		578
Defined benefit pension scheme asset	18		-		-
Total net assets			866		578
Funds of the academy trust:					
Restricted funds	16				
- Fixed asset funds			48		97
- Restricted income funds			302		98
Total restricted funds			350		195
Unrestricted income funds	16		516		383
Total funds			866		578

The financial statements were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 11 December 2025 and are signed on their behalf by:



Jillian Hyde-Baron
Vice Chair of Trustees

Company registration number 08561302 (England and Wales)

The Learning Together Trust

Group statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31 August 2025

	Notes	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	19	(81)	12
Cash flows from investing activities			
Capital grants from DfE Group		41	71
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(16)	(3)
Net cash provided by investing activities		25	68
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(56)	80
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year		792	712
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year		736	792

The Learning Together Trust

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 August 2025

1 Accounting policies

The Learning Together Trust is a charitable company. The address of its principal place of business is given on page 1 and the nature of its operations are set out in the trustees' report.

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

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the academy trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements 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 Department for Education, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

The Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) and balance sheet consolidate the financial statements of the charity and its subsidiary undertakings. The result of the subsidiary is consolidated on a line by line basis.

No separate SOFA has been presented for the charity alone as permitted by Section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 and paragraph 397 of the SORP.

1.2 Going concern

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

1.3 Conversion to an academy trust

The conversion from a state maintained school to an academy trust involved the transfer of identifiable assets and liabilities and the operation of the school for £nil consideration. The substance of the transfer is that of a gift and it has been accounted for on that basis as set out below.

The assets and liabilities transferred on conversion from Accrington Benjamin Hargreaves CE Primary to the academy trust have been valued at their fair value. The fair value has been derived based on that of equivalent items. The amounts have been recognised under the appropriate balance sheet categories, with a corresponding amount recognised in donations – transfer from local authority on conversion in the Statement of Financial Activities and analysed under unrestricted funds, restricted general funds and restricted fixed asset funds. Further details of the transaction are set out in note 26.

1.4 Income

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

The Learning Together Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

1 Accounting policies

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 period for which it is receivable, and any abatement in respect of the period is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

Capital grants are recognised 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.

Sponsorship income

Sponsorship income provided to the academy trust which amounts to a donation is recognised in the statement of financial activities in the period in which it is receivable (where there are no performance-related conditions), where the receipt is probable and it can be measured reliably.

Donations

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

Other income

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

Donated goods, facilities and services

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

Donated fixed assets

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

The Learning Together Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

1 Accounting policies

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Expenditure on raising funds

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

Charitable activities

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

1.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

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

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

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

Computer equipment	5 years
Fixtures, furniture & equipment	5 years
Motor vehicles	5 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.

The Learning Together Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

1 Accounting policies

Land and buildings occupied under license are not recognised in the financial statements, any subsequent improvements made to these land and buildings are expensed on the basis that they are not considered to be under the control of the Trust. The alternative treatment where the Academy Trust's occupation for the period may therefore be recognisable as a notional donation has also not been adopted as the donated amount cannot be reliably measured.

Land at Canon Sharples CE Primary and Nursery School and Adlington St Pauls CE Primary School is leased to the Trust under a 125 year lease. The value of the land held under lease was not separately identifiable from the value of land owned by the Diocese and therefore this land is not included in the financial statements.

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

1.7 Liabilities

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

1.8 Leased assets

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

1.9 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets

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

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

Financial liabilities

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

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

1.10 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 chapter 3 part 11 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.

The Learning Together Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

1 Accounting policies

1.11 Pensions benefits

Retirement benefits to employees of the academy trust are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme ('TPS') and the Local Government Pension Scheme ('LGPS'). These are defined benefit schemes and the assets are held separately from those of the academy trust.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the academy trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary based on quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. The 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 are recognised in the period to which they relate.

The LGPS is a funded multi-employer scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the academy trust in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high-quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to net income or expenditure are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the statement of financial activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses. Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses.

1.12 Fund accounting

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

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

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

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The Learning Together Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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 20, will impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2025. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

The pension value as at 31 August 2025 has been determined by the actuary which is showing the academy trust as having a pension asset as at 31 August 2025. In accordance with applicable accounting standards, the asset value has been capped at an asset ceiling value of £nil on the basis that the asset is not deemed to be realisable.

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2025 £'000	Total 2024 £'000
Supply teacher insurance	-	21	21	-
Capital grants	-	41	41	71
Other donations	15	28	43	3
	<u>15</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>105</u>	<u>74</u>

The Learning Together Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

4 Funding for the academy trust's educational operations

Educational operations	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2025 £'000	Total 2024 £'000
DfE/ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	7,316	7,316	5,737
Other DfE/ESFA grants:				
- UIFSM	-	183	183	171
- Pupil premium	-	507	507	396
- Start up grants	-	25	25	180
- Core School Budget Grant	-	253	253	-
- Maintained Schools Additional Grant	-	-	-	187
- Others	-	459	459	321
	<u>-</u>	<u>8,743</u>	<u>8,743</u>	<u>6,992</u>
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	723	723	626
	<u>-</u>	<u>723</u>	<u>723</u>	<u>626</u>
Other incoming resources	-	-	-	11
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11</u>
Total funding for educational operations	<u>-</u>	<u>9,466</u>	<u>9,466</u>	<u>7,629</u>
St Wilfrid's Trading Company	257	-	257	247
	<u>257</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>257</u>	<u>247</u>
Total funding	<u>257</u>	<u>9,466</u>	<u>9,723</u>	<u>7,876</u>

The academy trust received £723,000 (2024: £626,000) from the local authority in the year being £8,000 (2024: £nil) pupil premium funding, £238,000 (2024: £232,000) High Needs funding, £435,000 Early Years funding (2024: £333,000) and £42,000 other (2024: £61)

There were no unfulfilled conditions or other contingencies relating to the grants in the year.

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2025 £'000	Total 2024 £'000
Hire of facilities	17	-	17	-
Catering income	-	115	115	88
Other income	413	30	443	279
	<u>430</u>	<u>145</u>	<u>575</u>	<u>367</u>

The Learning Together Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

6 Expenditure

	Staff costs	Non-pay expenditure		Total	Total
	£'000	Premises £'000	Other £'000	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	6,614	-	449	7,063	5,914
- Allocated support costs	863	823	1,350	3,036	2,498
	<u>7,477</u>	<u>823</u>	<u>1,799</u>	<u>10,099</u>	<u>8,412</u>

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Operating lease rentals	4	4
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	29	30
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	16	19
- Other services	2	9
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	<u>(39)</u>	<u>(13)</u>

7 Central services

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

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

The academy trust charges for these services based on 6.0% (2024: 6.0%) of each academy's General Annual Grant funding.

The amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
St Wilfrid's CE Primary Academy	152	142
Canon Sharples CE Primary School and Nursery	97	90
St David Haigh and Aspull CE Primary School	36	33
Adlington St Paul's CE Primary School	52	49
Hesketh-with-Becconsall All Saints CE Primary School	47	30
Accrington Benjamin Hargreaves CE Primary School	54	-
	<u>438</u>	<u>344</u>

The Learning Together Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

8 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2025 £'000	Total 2024 £'000
Direct costs				
Educational operations	85	6,978	7,063	5,914
Support costs				
Educational operations	249	2,787	3,036	2,498
	<u>334</u>	<u>9,765</u>	<u>10,099</u>	<u>8,412</u>
Analysis of support costs			2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Support staff costs			1,019	650
Depreciation			29	12
Technology costs			41	-
Premises costs			794	838
Legal costs			276	197
Other support costs			859	771
Governance costs			18	30
			<u>3,036</u>	<u>2,498</u>

The Learning Together Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

9 Staff

Staff costs and employee benefits

Staff costs during the year were:

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Wages and salaries	5,359	4,516
Social security costs	606	402
Pension costs	1,348	985
Staff costs - employees	7,313	5,903
Agency staff costs	156	151
Staff restructuring costs	8	10
	7,477	6,064
Staff development and other staff costs	156	-
Total staff expenditure	7,633	6,064
Staff restructuring costs comprise:		
Redundancy payments	-	6
Severance payments	8	4
	8	10

Severance payments

The academy trust paid 1 severance payments in the year, disclosed in the following bands:

£0 - £25,000 1

Special staff severance payments

Special staff severance payments are amounts paid to employees outside of statutory and contractual requirements. Included in staff restructuring costs are special severance payments totalling £2,884 (2024: £nil). Individually, there was one payment of £2,884.

The Learning Together Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

9 Staff

Staff numbers

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

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Teachers	67	72
Administration and support	101	91
Management	18	5
	<u>186</u>	<u>168</u>

The number of persons employed, expressed as a full time equivalent, was as follows:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Teachers	57	64
Administration and support	55	55
Management	17	5
	<u>129</u>	<u>124</u>

Higher paid staff

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

	2025 Number	2024 Number
£60,001 - £70,000	4	3
£70,001 - £80,000	5	-
£80,001 - £90,000	1	-
£90,001 - £100,000	-	1
£100,001 - £110,000	-	1
£110,001 - £120,000	2	-
	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>

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 key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £606,943 (2024: £538,748).

The Learning Together Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

10 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

No trustees were paid any remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the academy trust.

During the year, travel and subsistence expenses totalling £nil (2024: £nil) were reimbursed to trustees.

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out within the related parties note.

11 Trustees' and officers' insurance

The academy trust has opted into the Department for Education's Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA), an alternative to insurance where UK government funds cover losses that arise. This scheme protects trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy trust 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.

12 Tangible fixed assets - group and academy

	Computer equipment	Fixtures, furniture & equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost				
At 1 September 2024	104	30	31	165
Additions	4	12	-	16
	<u>108</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>181</u>
At 31 August 2025	108	42	31	181
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2024	74	15	15	104
Charge for the year	16	7	6	29
	<u>90</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>133</u>
At 31 August 2025	90	22	21	133
Net book value				
At 31 August 2025	<u>18</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>48</u>
At 31 August 2024	<u>30</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>61</u>

The Learning Together Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

13 Debtors

	Group 2025 £'000	Group 2024 £'000	Academy 2025 £'000	Academy 2024 £'000
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	-	15	15
VAT recoverable	18	27	18	27
Other debtors	123	-	123	-
Prepayments and accrued income	331	219	355	219
	<u>472</u>	<u>246</u>	<u>511</u>	<u>261</u>

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Group 2025 £'000	Group 2024 £'000	Academy 2025 £'000	Academy 2024 £'000
Trade creditors	-	116	-	116
Other creditors	12	23	12	23
Accruals and deferred income	283	272	283	272
	<u>295</u>	<u>411</u>	<u>295</u>	<u>411</u>

15 Deferred income

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	<u>132</u>	<u>127</u>
Deferred income at 1 September 2024	127	90
Released from previous years	(127)	(90)
Resources deferred in the year	<u>132</u>	<u>127</u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2025	<u>132</u>	<u>127</u>

Deferred income as at 31 August 2025 relates to UIFSM grants and NNDR income, which have been paid in advance of the 2025-26 academic year.

The Learning Together Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

16 Funds - group

	Balance at 1 September 2024 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2025 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	98	7,316	(7,362)	250	302
Start up grants	-	25	(25)	-	-
UIFSM	-	183	(183)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	507	(507)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	712	(773)	61	-
Other government grants	-	723	(723)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	194	(194)	-	-
Pension reserve	-	232	31	(263)	-
	<u>98</u>	<u>9,892</u>	<u>(9,736)</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>302</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE group capital grants	47	41	(10)	(61)	17
Capital expenditure from GAG	<u>50</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(19)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>31</u>
	<u>97</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>(29)</u>	<u>(61)</u>	<u>48</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>195</u>	<u>9,933</u>	<u>(9,765)</u>	<u>(13)</u>	<u>350</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	383	445	(61)	(250)	517
St Wilfrid's Trading Company Ltd	<u>110</u>	<u>257</u>	<u>(273)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>94</u>
	<u>493</u>	<u>702</u>	<u>(334)</u>	<u>(250)</u>	<u>611</u>
Total funds	<u>688</u>	<u>10,635</u>	<u>(10,099)</u>	<u>(263)</u>	<u>961</u>

The Learning Together Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

16 Funds - group

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

Restricted general funds are those resources that have been designated restricted by the grant provider in meeting the objectives of the academy.

The pension values as at 31 August 2025 have been determined by the actuary which is showing the following pension assets and liabilities within the academy trust as at the balance sheet date:

Accrington Benjamin Hargreaves CE Primary – pension asset of £354,000

Hesketh-with-Beccansall CE Primary – pension asset of £511,000

Adlington St Paul's CE Primary - pension asset of £144,000

St Wilfrid's CE Primary, St David Haigh CE Primary, Canon Sharples CE Primary (combined scheme) – pension asset of £1,088,000

In accordance with applicable accounting standards, the asset values arising in the academy trust have been capped at an asset ceiling value of £nil on the basis the assets are not deemed to be realisable. This has reduced the pension assets and pension fund to £nil accordingly.

Restricted fixed asset funds are those funds relating to the long term assets of the academy used in delivering the objects of the academy. This is made up of the net book value of fixed assets of £48,000.

Unrestricted funds are those which the board of trustees may use in the pursuance of the academy's objectives and are the discretion of the trustees.

The transfer of £250,000 from unrestricted funds to general annual grant is to cover expenditure in the year not covered by revenue grants.

The transfer of £61,000 from fixed asset funds to general annual grant is for DFC expenditure not used for capital items.

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

The Learning Together Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

16 Funds - group

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

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2024 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	12	5,737	(5,904)	253	98
Start up grants	-	180	(180)	-	-
UIFSM	-	171	(171)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	396	(396)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	508	(508)	-	-
Other government grants	-	626	(626)	-	-
Pension reserve	(7)	300	11	(304)	-
	<u>5</u>	<u>7,918</u>	<u>(7,774)</u>	<u>(51)</u>	<u>98</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE group capital grants	169	71	(7)	(186)	47
Capital expenditure from GAG	<u>70</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(23)</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>50</u>
	<u>239</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>(30)</u>	<u>(183)</u>	<u>97</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>244</u>	<u>7,989</u>	<u>(7,804)</u>	<u>(234)</u>	<u>195</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	434	385	(366)	(70)	383
St Wilfrid's Trading Company Ltd	<u>105</u>	<u>247</u>	<u>(242)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>110</u>
	<u>539</u>	<u>632</u>	<u>(608)</u>	<u>(70)</u>	<u>493</u>
Total funds	<u>783</u>	<u>8,621</u>	<u>(8,412)</u>	<u>(304)</u>	<u>688</u>

The Learning Together Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

16 Funds - group

Total funds analysis by academy

	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2025 were allocated as follows:		
St Wilfrid's CE Primary Academy	101	(31)
Canon Sharples CE Primary School and Nursery	331	384
St David Haigh and Aspull CE Primary School	39	3
Adlington St Paul's CE Primary School	74	47
Hesketh-with-Becconsall All Saints CE Primary School	84	33
Accrington Benjamin Hargreaves CE Primary School	175	-
St Wilfrid's Trading Company Ltd	94	110
Central services	15	45
	<u>913</u>	<u>591</u>
Total before fixed assets fund and pension reserve	913	591
Restricted fixed asset fund	48	97
Pension reserve	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds	<u>961</u>	<u>688</u>

The Learning Together Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

16 Funds - group

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff £'000	Other support staff costs £'000	Educational supplies £'000	Other costs excluding depreciation £'000	Total 2025 £'000	Total 2024 £'000
St Wilfrid's CE Primary Academy	2,271	236	168	729	3,404	3,177
Canon Sharples CE Primary School and Nursery	1,613	191	111	372	2,287	2,100
St David Haigh and Aspull CE Primary School	425	76	29	183	713	916
Adlington St Paul's CE Primary School	701	84	58	239	1,082	1,076
Hesketh-with-Becconsall All Saints CE Primary School	677	71	36	257	1,041	593
Accrington Benjamin Hargreaves CE Primary School	606	104	48	161	919	-
St Wilfrid's Trading Company Ltd	110	5	-	24	139	137
Central services	320	135	-	62	517	383
	<u>6,723</u>	<u>902</u>	<u>450</u>	<u>2,027</u>	<u>10,102</u>	<u>8,382</u>

The Learning Together Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

16 Funds - academy

	Balance at 1 September 2024 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2025 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	98	7,316	(7,323)	211	302
Start up grants	-	25	(25)	-	-
UIFSM	-	183	(183)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	507	(507)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	712	(773)	61	-
Other government grants	-	723	(723)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	343	(343)	-	-
Pension reserve	-	232	31	(263)	-
	<u>98</u>	<u>10,041</u>	<u>(9,846)</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>302</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE group capital grants	47	41	(10)	(61)	17
Capital expenditure from GAG	<u>50</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(19)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>31</u>
	<u>97</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>(29)</u>	<u>(61)</u>	<u>48</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>195</u>	<u>10,082</u>	<u>(9,875)</u>	<u>(52)</u>	<u>350</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>383</u>	<u>430</u>	<u>(85)</u>	<u>(211)</u>	<u>516</u>
Total funds	<u>578</u>	<u>10,512</u>	<u>(9,960)</u>	<u>(263)</u>	<u>866</u>

The Learning Together Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

16 Funds - academy

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

Restricted general funds are those resources that have been designated restricted by the grant provider in meeting the objectives of the academy.

The pension values as at 31 August 2025 have been determined by the actuary which is showing the following pension assets and liabilities within the academy trust as at the balance sheet date:

Accrington Benjamin Hargreaves CE Primary – pension asset of £354,000

Hesketh-with-Beccansall CE Primary – pension asset of £511,000

Adlington St Paul's CE Primary – pension asset of £144,000

St Wilfrid's CE Primary, St David Haigh CE Primary, Canon Sharples CE Primary (combined scheme) – pension asset of £1,088,000

In accordance with applicable accounting standards, the asset values arising in the academy trust have been capped at an asset ceiling value of £nil on the basis the assets are not deemed to be realisable. This has reduced the pension assets and pension fund to £nil accordingly.

Restricted fixed asset funds are those funds relating to the long term assets of the academy used in delivering the objects of the academy. This is made up of the net book value of fixed assets of £48,000.

Unrestricted funds are those which the board of trustees may use in the pursuance of the academy's objectives and are the discretion of the trustees.

The transfer of £250,000 from unrestricted funds to general annual grant is to cover expenditure in the year not covered by revenue grants.

The transfer of £61,000 from fixed asset funds to general annual grant is for DFC expenditure not used for capital items.

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

17 Analysis of net assets between funds - group

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted funds: General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	Total Funds £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2025 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	48	48
Current assets	611	597	-	1,208
Current liabilities	-	(295)	-	(295)
Total net assets	611	302	48	961

The Learning Together Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

17 Analysis of net assets between funds - group

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted funds: General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	Total Funds £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	61	61
Current assets	493	509	36	1,038
Current liabilities	-	(411)	-	(411)
Total net assets	<u>493</u>	<u>98</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>688</u>

17 Analysis of net assets between funds – academy

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted funds: General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	Total Funds £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2025 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	48	48
Current assets	518	595	-	1,113
Current liabilities	-	(295)	-	(295)
Total net assets	<u>518</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>866</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted funds: General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	Total Funds £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	61	61
Current assets	383	509	36	928
Current liabilities	-	(411)	-	(411)
Total net assets	<u>383</u>	<u>98</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>578</u>

The Learning Together Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

18 Pension and similar obligations

The academy trust's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by Lancashire County Council for Hesketh-with-Beaconsall All Saints CE Primary, Adlington St Paul's CE Primary and Accrington Benjamin Hargreaves CE Primary and Greater Manchester Council for St David Haigh CE Primary, St Wilfrid's CE Primary and Canon Sharples CE Primary. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

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

Contributions amounting to £11,512 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2025 (2024: £7,080) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme to which both the member and employer makes contributions, as a percentage of salary. These contributions 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). This is an increase of 5% in employer contributions and the cost control result is such that no change in member benefits is needed.
- Total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £262,000 million and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222,200 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £39,800 million.

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

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £1,046,431 (2024: £744,397).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website.

The Learning Together Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

18 Pension and similar obligations

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102, the TPS is an unfunded multi-employer pension scheme. The academy trust is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the plan. Accordingly, the academy trust has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 and has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The academy trust has set out above the information available on the scheme.

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 17.2 to 18.3% for employers and 5.5 to 8.5% for employees.

As described in note 26 the LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the academy trust, being the employees transferred as part of the conversion from the maintained school and new employees who joined the scheme in the period. The obligation in respect of employees who transferred on conversion represents their cumulative service at both the predecessor school and the academy trust at the balance sheet date.

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 and on 21 July 2022, the Department for Education reaffirmed its commitment to the guarantee, with a parliamentary minute published on GOV.UK.

Total contributions made	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
Employer's contributions	302	256
Employees' contributions	98	83
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total contributions	400	339
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Principal actuarial assumptions	2025	2024
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	4.10	3.88
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.70	2.68
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	6.05	5.00
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.70	2.60
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The Learning Together Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

18 Pension and similar obligations

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
Retiring today		
- Males	18.4 - 22.0	21.4
- Females	24.0 - 25.0	25.1
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	20.1 - 20.9	20.1
- Females	23.5 - 24.7	23.7

The Learning Together Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

18 Pension and similar obligations

Sensitivity analysis

Scheme liabilities would have been affected by changes in assumptions as follows:

Accrington Benjamin Hargreaves CE Primary	2025	2024
Discount rate + 0.1%	(7)	-
Discount rate - 0.1%	7	-
Mortality assumption + 1 year	7	-
Mortality assumption - 1 year	(7)	-
CPI rate + 0.1%	7	-
CPI rate - 0.1%	(7)	-
Adlington St Paul's CE Primary	2025	2024
Discount rate + 0.1%	(6)	(8)
Discount rate - 0.1%	6	8
Mortality assumption + 1 year	8	10
Mortality assumption - 1 year	(8)	(10)
CPI rate + 0.1%	6	8
CPI rate - 0.1%	(6)	(8)
Hesketh-with- Becconsall CE Primary	2025	2024
Discount rate + 0.1%	(10)	(12)
Discount rate - 0.1%	10	12
Mortality assumption + 1 year	11	14
Mortality assumption - 1 year	(11)	(14)
CPI rate + 0.1%	10	12
CPI rate - 0.1%	(10)	(12)
St Wilfrid's CE Primary, St David Haigh CE Primary & Canon Sharples CE Primary	2025	2024
	(73)	(87)
Discount rate + 0.1%	73	87
Discount rate - 0.1%	139	154
Mortality assumption + 1 year	(139)	(154)
Mortality assumption - 1 year	73	85
CPI rate + 0.1%	(73)	(85)
CPI rate - 0.1%		

The Learning Together Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

18 Pension and similar obligations

The academy trust's share of the assets in the scheme	2025 Fair value £'000	2024 Fair value £'000
Equities	4,079	3,517
Government bonds	777	1
Other bonds	5	604
Cash	485	344
Property	617	455
Other assets	1,076	658
Total market value of assets	7,039	5,579
Restriction on scheme assets	(2,097)	(545)
Net assets recognised	4,942	5,034

The actual return on scheme assets was £460,000 (2024: £414,000).

Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Current service cost	307	256
Interest income	(320)	(239)
Interest cost	281	226
Administration expenses	3	2
Total amount recognised	271	245

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
At 1 September 2024	5,034	3,897
Obligations acquired on conversion	446	710
Current service cost	307	256
Interest cost	281	226
Employee contributions	98	83
Actuarial gain	(1,149)	(66)
Benefits paid	(75)	(72)
At 31 August 2025	4,942	5,034

The Learning Together Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

18 Pension and similar obligations

Changes in the fair value of the academy trust's share of scheme assets

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
At 1 September 2024	5,579	3,890
Assets acquired on conversion	678	1,010
Interest income	320	239
Actuarial gain	140	175
Employer contributions	302	256
Employee contributions	98	83
Benefits paid	(75)	(72)
Effect of non-routine settlements and administration expenses	(3)	(2)
At 31 August 2025	7,039	5,579
Restriction on scheme assets	(2,097)	(545)
Net assets recognised	4,942	5,034

Restriction of pension scheme assets

The pension values as at 31 August 2025 have been determined by the actuary which is showing the following pension assets and liabilities within the academy trust as at the balance sheet date:

Accrington Benjamin Hargreaves CE Primary – pension asset of £354,000

Hesketh-with-Beccansall CE Primary – pension asset of £511,000

Adlington St Paul's CE Primary - pension asset of £144,000

St Wilfrid's CE Primary, St David Haigh CE Primary, Canon Sharples CE Primary (combined scheme) – pension asset of £1,088,000

In accordance with applicable accounting standards, the asset values arising in the academy trust have been capped at an asset ceiling value of £nil on the basis the assets are not deemed to be realisable. This has reduced the pension assets and pension fund to £nil accordingly

The Learning Together Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

19 Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities

	Notes	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		536	209
Adjusted for:			
Net surplus on conversion to academy	26	(232)	(304)
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income		(41)	(71)
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	20	8	2
Defined benefit pension scheme finance income	20	(39)	(13)
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		29	30
(Increase) in debtors		(226)	(256)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors		(116)	411
Stocks, debtors and creditors transferred on conversion	26	-	4
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities		(81)	12

20 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2024 £'000	Cash flows £'000	31 August 2025 £'000
Cash	792	(56)	736

21 Long-term commitments

Operating leases

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

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Amounts due within one year	1	-
Amounts due in two and five years	5	-
	<u>6</u>	<u>-</u>

The Learning Together Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

22 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the academy trust's operations and the composition of the board of trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the academy trust has an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the academy trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures. The following related party transactions took place in the period:

S Fisher, a trustee, is also a trustee at Standish Grammar School Trust. During the period, £15,000 (2024: £nil) was received by the academy for provision of services. At the balance sheet date, no amounts were owed to the academy trust (2024: £nil).

A Holliday, a trustee, is also a director at Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education. During the period, £18,726 (2024: £nil) was received by the academy for provision of services. At the balance sheet date, no amounts were owed to the academy trust (2024: £nil). During the period, the academy trust also purchased services from Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education of £6,593 (2024: £nil) peculiar to the Christian ethos of the school. At the balance sheet date there were no amounts owed by the academy trust (2024: £nil). In entering into these transaction, the academy has not complied with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2024.

I Parks & S Harrison, both members, are also directors at DBE Services. During the period, the academy trust purchased services from DBE Services of £56,252 (£2024: £nil) particular to the Christian ethos of the school. At the balance sheet date there were no amounts owed by the academy trust (2024: £nil). In entering into these transaction, the academy has not complied with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2024.

S Harrison, a member, is also a director at Liverpool Diocesan Education Trust. The academy trust purchased staff training services from Liverpool Diocesan Education Trust during the year ending 31 August 2025 amounting to £2,160 (2024: £nil). At the balance sheet date there were no amounts owed by the academy trust (2024: £nil). In entering into these transaction, the academy has not complied with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2024.

J A Hyde-Baron, a trustee, is also a trustee at Wigan Churches Together Family Welfare. The academy trust purchased staff training services from Wigan Churches Together Family Welfare during the year ending 31 August 2024 amounting to £23,299 (2024: £nil). At the balance sheet date there were no amounts owed by the academy trust (2024: £nil). In entering into these transaction, the academy has not complied with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2024.

J Stokes, spouse of A Stokes, a trustee, is employed by the academy trust as a teaching assistant. J Stokes' appointment was made in open competition and A Stokes was not involved in the decision-making process regarding appointment. J Stokes is employed under normal employment conditions and no favourable terms are given.

23 Members' liability

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

The Learning Together Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

24 Conversion to an academy

On 01 September 2024 Accrington Benjamin Hargreaves CE Primary School converted to academy trust status under the Academies Act 2010 and all the operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to The Learning Together Trust from the Lancashire County Council Local Authority for £nil consideration.

The transfer has been accounted for as a combination that is in substance a gift. The assets and liabilities transferred were valued at their fair values and recognised in the balance sheet under the appropriate headings.

Per correspondence with Lancashire County Council, the school closed with a deficit balance of £11,493. As this was a sponsored conversion, the balance was not transferred and remained with Lancashire County Council.

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

Academy	Location	Date of conversion		
Accrington Benjamin Hargreaves CE Primary School	Accrington	1 September 2024		

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds:		Total
		General	Fixed asset	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	2025
Net assets transferred:				£'000
Pension scheme surplus	-	232	-	232
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds:		Total
		General	Fixed asset	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	2025
Funds surplus/(deficit) transferred:				£'000
LGPS pension funds	-	232	-	232
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>