

Registration number: 09677480

Lever Academy Trust

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Lever Academy Trust

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Reference and Administrative Details

Members:	A Connell E Mellor K Halliwell – ended 11.12.2024 P Philbin
Trustees:	S McFarlane (Chair of the Trust) J Cornally (Vice Chair of the Trust) R Foster V Gavin M Isherwood – resigned 31.08.2025 J Jones A Middlemass A O'Callaghan – appointed 11.12.2024 D Webb S Prendergast – appointed 15.10.25
Senior Leadership Team	D McKeon (Principal) L Emmett (Associate Principal) P Davies (Vice Principal) – retired 31.03.2025 S Cordwell (Associate Vice Principal) L Grellier (Assistant Principal) G Hutchinson (Assistant Principal) M Moore (Assistant Principal) K Wilson (Assistant Principal) S Reynolds (Assistant Principal) S Hargreaves (Associate Assistant Principal) M Leathert (Director of SCITT) G McFadden (Business Manager)
Company name	Lever Academy Trust
Registered Office	Little Lever School Church street Little Lever Bolton BL3 1BT
Company registration number:	09677480 (England and Wales)

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Reference and Administrative Details (continued)

Auditors:	Xeinadin Audit Limited Riverside House Kings Reach Business Park Yew Street Stockport SK4 2HD
Bankers:	Lloyds Bank Plc Hotel Street Bolton BL1 1DB
Solicitors:	Browne Jacobson 5th Floor Tower 12 18-22 Bridge Street Spinningfields Manchester M3 3BZ Cook Lawyers Manchester Business Park 3000 Aviator Way Manchester M22 5TG

Lever Academy Trust

Trustees' Report

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 under company law.

The academy trust operates an academy for pupils aged 11 to 16 serving a catchment area in south-east Bolton. It has a pupil capacity of 1050 and had a roll of 1065 in the school census in October 2024.

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

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

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

Members' Liability

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

Trustees' Indemnities

The academy has purchased indemnity insurance to protect governors and officers from claims arising in connection with academy business. The insurance provides Governors' liability of up to £10,000,000 on any one claim and unlimited Professional indemnity. The insurance cover is provided the DFE Risk Protection Arrangement for Schools.

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

The Trustees are appointed by the following:

Parent Trustees

Parent Trustees shall be elected or, if the number of parents, or individuals exercising parental responsibility, standing for election is less than the number of vacancies, appointed (in accordance with the terms of reference determined by the Trustees from time to time). The elected or appointed Parent Trustees must be a parent, or an individual exercising parental responsibility, of a registered pupil at one or more of the Academies at the time when he or she is elected or appointed. [AoA 54]

Staff Trustees

Elected by staff of the Academy.

Lever Academy Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

Co-opted Trustees	The Trustees may appoint Co-opted Trustees. The Trustees may not co-opt an employee of the Academy Trust as a Co-opted Trustee if thereby the number of Trustees who are employees of the Academy Trust would exceed one third of the total number of Trustees including the Chief Executive Officer to the extent, he or she is a Trustee. [AoA 58]
Trustees	The first Trustees shall be those persons named in the statement delivered pursuant to sections 9 and 12 of the Companies Act 2006. [AoA 48]. Future Trustees shall be appointed or elected, as the case may be, under these Articles. [AoA 49] The Members may appoint by ordinary resolution up to 4 Trustees. [AoA 50]

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees

The training and induction provided for new trustees will depend on their existing experience. All trustees are provided with access to academy documentation on appointment. Induction training is provided by the principal, the Chair of the Trust and the business manager. Ongoing training is provided through One Education governor training, Bolton Council governor services and other appropriate providers. Trustees have full access to the online services 'The Key for Governors' and the 'National Governors Association' which provide in depth information tailored for governors.

The clerk to trust will disseminate relevant legal and educational updates termly. The trustees undertake an annual skills audit. The audit results provide a clear picture of training requirements. Appropriate internal and external training is organised to strengthen the trustees' skills.

Trustees take roles as 'link governors' for key areas of operation of the trust such as Pupil Premium, Teaching & Learning, Safeguarding and Curriculum. Link governors liaise closely with a named member of SLT to develop an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the operations of the Academy within their area.

Organisational Structure

The trust is governed by the Board of Trustees, whose members are directors of the charitable company for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, trustees for the purposes of charity legislation and governors of the academy. The organisational structure of the trust consists of four levels: The Members, the Board of Trustees, the Principal and the SLT. The aim of the management structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels.

The Members overseeing the achievement of the objectives of the company, take part in annual and extraordinary general meetings, appointing some of the trustees, signing off the company's financial accounts and annual report, have the power to amend the Articles of the company and, ultimately, to remove the trustees.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for setting key policies, adopting a school development plan, approving and monitoring the budget, monitoring the academy's performance, making major policy decisions, appointing senior staff, and making major decisions about the direction of the trust. The Principal serves as the Accounting Officer. The Accounting Officer has the responsibility for financial and administrative matters and is personally responsible to the Board of Trustees for Regularity (dealing with all items of income and expenditure in accordance with legislation and any applicable delegated authority), Propriety (operating appropriate standards of conduct, behaviour and corporate governance including fairness, integrity, avoidance of conflict of interest, even-handedness and open competition) and Value for Money (efficient and effective use of available resources, avoidance of waste

Lever Academy Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

and extravagance, prudent and economical administration of the financial affairs of the academy including the day to day organisation, staffing and management of the academy).

The Business Manager, serves as the Chief Financial Officer, is a member of the senior leadership team responsible for the maintenance of effective systems of internal financial control including the development of appropriate financial regulations to control, disburse and monitor academy funds, and liaison with budget holders to ensure compliance; the establishment, operation and security of a suitable computerised accounting system; the day to day management of financial processes including the buying and ordering of academy supplies and services to ensure value for money is achieved; the management of the academy's financial position at a strategic and operational level, including the development of an annual budget and forecasts for future years as part of the academy's three year plan; preparation of appropriate management information, including monthly accounts of budgeted and actual expenditure and briefings for trustees and the senior team; the submission of budget returns and other financial documents to the DFE in line with the Department's timetable; planning and monitoring of the academy's cash flow including policies for monitoring creditors and debtors; business planning to identify and maximise potential sources of income from local and national government initiatives and from the academy's own activities etc; management of the academy's capital assets including rolling replacement programmes as part of the budget setting process; ensuring that annual accounts are properly presented and adequately supported by the underlying books and records of the academy, including planning of statutory audits and progression of any audit recommendations; ensuring an effective payroll system is operated in compliance with relevant legislation and that all external returns are submitted on time; ensuring adequate insurance cover is maintained; overseeing and/or collaborating with other non-teaching areas including HR, admin, facilities management, ICT and catering; authorising orders up to a level set by the Trust, in conjunction with budget holders; authorising BACS in conjunction with the Principal or other authorised signatory.

The Senior Leadership Team consists of the Principal, Associate Principal, Vice Principal who retired on the 31st of March 2025, Associate Vice Principal, six Assistant Principals including the Director of SCITT, one associate Assistant Principal and one Business Manager. The team controls the Academy at an executive and operational level, implementing the policies laid down by the Trustees and reporting back to them. As per the Scheme of Delegation, the Principal and Business Manager are responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets. Set limits and separation of duties control the exposure to risk. Members of the team are also responsible for the recruitment process.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The Trust has adopted a suitably modified Bolton Council policy for setting and reviewing pay. The policy adopts the national terms and conditions for teachers (STPCD) and predominantly follows the Local Authority policy for support staff pay and conditions. Therefore, the Trust pay scales are based upon National Pay Scales for teachers and Local Pay scales for support staff. The Trust has a process of annual performance review, appraisal, for all staff. Pay progression is not linked to the outcome of the appraisals for teaching staff. Pay progression for support staff follows the Local Authority guidelines. The Principal's performance is assessed by two nominated trustees/members, the chair of the trust and supported by an external Independent School Improvement Professional. They evaluate the Principal's performance against the objectives set for that period. The Principal's pay is directly linked to the outcome of this evaluation. The recommendations are subject to approval by the Board of Trustees. A similar process is followed for key staff. The Principal evaluates the performance of the Associate Principal, Vice Principal and the Business Manager and recommends what, if any, pay award will be made. The academy has a clear appraisals structure identifying the appraisers and appraisees. This process is followed for all staff, SLT, teachers and support staff. The outcomes of these evaluations are reported back to the Board of Trustees through the Pay Committee.

Trade union facility time

The trust buys into the Bolton Local Authority Trade Union service. The cost of the SLA is £6300. There are 0 staff recognised as local union representatives. The trust will make time available for staff to conduct their union activities if any staff wish to take up local union representation.

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Trustees' Report (continued)

Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

The Trust is connected to The Bolton Impact Trust Fund (Company Number 09971348), One Education (07690416) and The Pixl Club Ltd (7321607)). The Bolton Impact Trust is a MAT that operates 5 organisations providing alternative curriculum and special school facilities. The Trust uses the services of the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU), and pupils who have or are about to be excluded are sent to the PRU. The Trust purchases Governor and HR support services from One Education.

Engagement with Employees

The Trust's most valuable asset is its staff. The success of the Trust is built on having outstanding leaders, teachers and support staff. A vital element of achieving this is through staff training and engagement. As an organisation committed to equality and fairness for all we are committed to obtaining the views and thoughts of all staff. The Principal has a weekly staff meeting with all teaching staff, all staff have clear objectives and receive feedback twice a year, and the Trust engages regularly with the trade unions. All staff are aware of the main priorities included in the School Development Plan. Staff have an opportunity through strong staff voice mechanisms, collaborative planning and line management procedures to share their views and opinions on policy and practice and collaboratively help shape policies and practice throughout the Trust. As pupil numbers and needs change over time regular discussion and consultation take place with staff to advise them of any potential changes to the future staffing structure.

As an organisation completely dependent upon its staff's performance the Trust recognises the need to keep staff informed and motivated.

We invest heavily in professional development and are keen to promote opportunities to enhance leadership across the Trust

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

The main stakeholders of the Trust are pupils and parents/guardians. Historically schools have always had an interest in ensuring that these stakeholders are embraced, and their requirements met.

The start of the process of pupil/parent engagement is to ensure they are aware of the Trust and what and how it does things. The Trust engage directly with feeder primary schools and hold open evenings for potential new pupils. Once a pupil starts the Trust engages with pupil/parents/guardians. This is continuous and often and includes:-

- pupil feedback regarding specific pieces of work and overall progress
- parent feedback to parents regarding progress and other matters

The school have a termly report that documents the progress of pupils and identifies any gaps in knowledge, this is shared with pupils and parents/guardians via reports and regular parents' evenings. The school will also contact parents about any event relevant material or event they believe parents should be aware of for example, attendance, accidents, behaviour etc.

The involvement of parents/guardians in their child's education is paramount.

Lever Academy Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

The Trust also has some important suppliers whom the Trust is dependent upon for service. These services include:

- Supply Teachers and Support Staff
- Catering
- Cleaning
- Building Repairs and Maintenance
- ICT
- Professional Services such as Occupation Health, Payroll, HR, Accountancy etc

The Trust seeks to engage with such suppliers as partners rather than pure suppliers. When agreeing any new contract the Trust seeks to ensure value for money so price alone is not the driver. It wants efficient, effective and economic services from suppliers. It wants to build lasting partnerships that underpin the delivery of outstanding services. The Trust takes its time when re-negotiating such contracts to ensure it get the best possible service for the best price. It makes suppliers aware of the need for them to become suppliers.

The Trust has very few customers to whom it sells, this tend to be one off and miscellaneous.

The Trust uses an external lettings company to rent out its facilities, providing an additional source of income.

Objectives and Activities

Aims

The Trust will always put children first and improve their life chances by advancing and enhancing the standard of education in the local area, giving all children but particularly those children from disadvantaged backgrounds the opportunity to stand as equals among any social circle.

The Trust aims to provide a world class curriculum which is ambitious for all and helps all children, but particularly disadvantaged children and children with SEND, to flourish and achieve outcomes that far exceed the national average.

The Trust aims to work collaboratively and innovatively with local, regional and national schools, academies and other Trusts for the benefit of children. The Trust is driven by a moral purpose to improve the life chances of all children and sees highly effective collaborative structures as essential to achieving this.

The Trust aims to grow ethically and with efficacy by developing highly effective systems and structures and high quality leaders to support other schools and academies to transform the lives of children.

The Trust has adopted the Articles of Association, the charitable company approved by the Secretary of State for Education. The operation of the Trust is in accordance with the ESFA Master and Supplemental Funding Agreements and the Trust's Scheme of Delegation.

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

The Trust purpose and values are a culmination of the thoughts and beliefs of the whole community; our trustees, staff, students and parents / carers. Our core purpose is:

"To help every person achieve things they never thought they could"

Lever Academy Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

As an academy we help our students to realise what they can really achieve. We provide aspiration through stimulating lessons that challenge students to think and enquire.

Our core values are:

- Be kind
- Work hard
- Take responsibility

Our values permeate throughout the Trust.

Everything we do revolves around our core purpose and values.

The main objectives of the Academy during the year ended 31 August 2025 are summarised below:

- 1. To improve pupil outcomes across the school, especially for disadvantaged pupils and pupils with SEND, concentrating on:**
 - a. Developing teachers' and teaching assistants' expertise in delivering important knowledge so that implementation is of a consistently high standard across all subjects and classrooms.
 - b. Monitoring the impact of teaching pedagogy on pupils' learning and taking appropriate action to develop staff expertise.
 - c. Developing highly effective formative and summative assessment across all year groups that is used well to address pupils' mistakes and misconceptions.
 - d. Developing pupils' writing ability so that they are able to apply their knowledge well within the extended written work.
 - e. Developing pupils' reading fluency, confidence and comprehension through interventions and form reading.
 - f. Developing pupil's mathematical knowledge and fluency so that they can apply this knowledge in complex tasks across the curriculum.
- 2. To use attendance data forensically to direct appropriate and effective resources and interventions. This is to:**
 - a. Improve overall attendance of all students and identified pupil groups (DP, SEND, boys, girls).
 - b. Decrease persistent absence and severe absence for individuals and identified groups (DP, SEND, boys, girls)
- 3. To develop pupils' belonging, resilience and self-management, and reduce internal and external suspension, through:**
 - a. Explicit instruction of vision, belonging, the demographic of our school.
 - b. Training staff on positive framing, de-escalation, and the importance of belonging.
 - c. Embedding and expanding intelligent support systems within the hub and mountain rescue

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Trustees' Report (continued)

4. To support staff retention and recruitment through:
 - a. High-quality compulsory and optional staff training.
 - b. Development and expansion of the SCITT
 - c. A focus on appropriate work/life balance.
 - d. High-quality well-being opportunities.

Public Benefit

In setting our objectives and planning activities the trustees have carefully considered the Charity Commission's guidance on the public benefit. In addition to the education of students on roll, the trust operates a sports centre for the benefit of the students and local community.

As an organisation set up for the public benefit the Trust is aware of its public life obligations and strives to achieve the Nolan Principles of public service:

1 Selflessness

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.

2 Integrity

Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

3 Objectivity

Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

4 Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

5 Openness

Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

6 Honesty

Holders of public office should be truthful.

7 Leadership

Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

The Trust is also aware of its charity obligations to provide public benefit to the greatest number of people possible and to ensure that the Trustees act in a way that avoids any potential conflict of interest. The Trustees are aware that they are there to serve the general public and cannot and should not acquire any personal gain. The Trustees recognise

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Trustees' Report (continued)

- The purpose of the organisation
- The need to serve the public
- The need to report on the organisation's work/performance to the public
- The need to be open and transparent
- The need to minimise risk and work in the best interest of the public
- The need for decisions to be in the interest of the Trust and the public and not allow personal gain/objectives to interfere with this objective.
- The need to allow all members of society to access the service we provide
- The need to observe the laws and regulations that govern the organisation and to follow the spirit of these rules and regulations

Strategic Report

Achievements and Performance

Key Performance Indicators

The unvalidated outcomes show the school's sustained improving trajectory over the last 5 years. Particularly for children with SEND and disadvantaged children

Progress 8 (All): Unavailable for 2025

Progress 8 (disadvantaged): Unavailable for 2025

Progress 8 (SEND): Unavailable for 2025

Attainment 8 (All): 4.62

Attainment 8 (disadvantaged): 3.6

Percentage of students achieving a strong pass (9 – 5) in English and maths: 57%

Percentage of students achieving a standard pass (9 – 4) in English and maths: 67%

Percentage of disadvantaged students achieving a strong pass in English and maths: 35%

The overall Attainment 8 score is the highest Attainment 8 score in the school's history. It is likely therefore that Progress 8 would also have been the highest Progress 8 in the school's history.

The percentage of students achieving a strong pass in English and maths has improved by 8ppts to 57% and is significantly above the national average. This is a 16ppt improvement over a two-year period.

We recognise the strong pass in English and maths for disadvantaged students remains 10ppts below the national average for all students but disadvantaged students achieving a strong pass in English and maths has sustainably improved and remains 9ppts above the national average (2024) when compared 'like for like' with the strong pass national average for disadvantaged students.

Disadvantaged students' progress has rapidly improved over the last 5 years and whilst Progress 8 data is unavailable this year we are determined to ensure Progress 8 for disadvantaged students continues to move closer to 0 and becomes positive by 2027.

Children with SEND have made rapid and sustained improvements over the same time period resulting in significantly positive Progress 8 scores in 2024.

The strategies we have adopted to improve the quality and consistency of implementation have had a direct impact on the outcomes students have achieved, particularly for the most vulnerable students over a sustained period.

Attendance:

Overall attendance for 2024/ 2025 was: 88.76%

Students who are classified as persistently absent rapidly reduced from 33.6% in 2023 to 26.93% in 2024 and 21.3% in 2025

Lever Academy Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

There is still more work to be done to improve the school's overall attendance and the successful actions and strategies that have been put in place this year will continue into the next academic year.

The school has seen an immediate positive impact in improving the overall attendance at the start of the 2025/26 academic year as a result of the strategies that have been implemented. The school will work relentlessly to maintain and enhance overall attendance throughout the year.

Trust Growth:

The overall contact ratio was purposefully lowered to 0.66 to allow capacity for leaders in the school to conduct effective school to school support across Greater Manchester in 2023. Teach First students were recruited to provide temporary overstaffing to allow school to school support work to take place whilst not jeopardising quality in the classroom across the school.

A range of effective school to school support contracts were brokered with schools, Trusts and Local Authorities across the north west with demonstrable impact.

Strong relationships developed as a result of this and the Lever Academy Trust had built a strong position to grow the Trust.

Whilst a strong position had been built the Lever Academy Trust made the decision not to grow the Trust in 2024/25. The decision was made to consolidate the school's position to continue to improve outcomes and to ensure strong and sustainable financial security moving forward. This resulted in natural staffing re-structures which allowed Little Lever to increase its contact ratio to 0.72 and remain financially healthy. This will enable Little Lever to continue sustainable school improvement.

The school is also increasing its PAN to 240 pupils per year group. Our Year 8 and Year 7 PAN is 240 pupils and all places were filled on offer day. We expect another 240 Year 7 places to be filled in September 2026. Legal funding agreements are in place with the local authority to expand the building infrastructure. The school is investing in the infrastructure of the site to ensure the facilities and infrastructure continues to support sustainable school improvement and outcomes for children whilst ensuring financial stability. This will place the Trust in a healthy position to grow or merge in the future.

The Trust has set up a partnership with Teach First. Little Lever is a Teach First partner school and has a well established Teach First SCITT to support recruitment and retention within the Trust but also aims to support the wider recruitment objectives across Bolton and the North West.

Going Concern

Based upon detailed analysis of the forecasted pupil numbers and expected costs the Trust believes it is a going concern. The Trustees of the Trust believe the organisation is a going concern both now and into the future. There are no current issues that would undermine the financial feasibility of the Trust.

Current Year Overview

Trust generated an in- year revenue deficit of £38,037 and a cumulative revenue surplus of £479,334. The Trust set an in-year deficit budget of £225,000 and made in-year savings of £187,000 through a vacancy freeze, a significantly reduced supply cost and close monitoring of all expenditure.

At the end of the financial year the cash in the bank was £905,000. The cost of current liabilities compared to current assets (excluding the bank) stood at £862k.

Lever Academy Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

Future Forecast

The Trust continues to experience strong demand for pupil places, with admissions remaining significantly oversubscribed. In the current academic year, the Trust commenced the first of four planned annual increases in Year 7 intake, expanding to 240 pupils. This strategic growth is expected to provide a stable and sustainable income stream, supporting financial solvency over the next three years. Cash reserves are projected to remain above £600,000 throughout this period, with no anticipated cash flow concerns. To accommodate the rising pupil numbers, the Trust has initiated the first phase of its expansion programme. The local authority has committed £6 million in funding to support these building works.

Budget planning is underpinned by Integrated Curriculum Financial Planning (ICFP) and benchmarking practices. All financial plans are rigorously evaluated for value for money and long-term sustainability. Due to lagged funding and increased pupil numbers, the Trust set a planned in-year deficit. However, through close monitoring of expenditure, the Trust achieved an in-year saving of £187,000.

Recognising the financial pressures ahead, the Trust has incorporated a cost-of-living adjustment aligned with the teachers' pay award and has assumed a 3% annual increase for other staffing costs. As of 31 August 2025, the Trust holds an accumulated surplus of £479,334, which is fully available for operational use. These funds will be strategically invested to enhance educational standards, improve attendance, and support the ongoing expansion.

The Trust remains committed to providing outstanding facilities and learning environments. With the increase in Published Admission Number (PAN), pupil intake is expected to grow further. Forecasts for pupil numbers over the next 3–5 years are considered robust and reliable. The Trust continuously reviews its curriculum and staffing structures to ensure alignment with pupil needs and to deliver optimal outcomes.

Financial stability is viewed as a cornerstone for consistent and effective medium- to long-term planning. The current surplus, combined with projected income, positions the Trust to fulfil its core objective of maximising pupil achievement. Expenditure will be subject to ongoing review to safeguard financial health.

Following thorough evaluation, the Board of Trustees has a reasonable expectation that the Trust possesses adequate resources to continue operations for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, the Trust will continue to prepare its financial statements on a going concern basis. Further details regarding this approach are available in the Statement of Financial Position.

Promoting the Success of the Trust

The members and Trustees have considered how the organisation can best serve the interests of pupils, parents/guardians, staff, business partners, suppliers and the community we serve. The Trustees believe the best way to achieve this is to provide a world class education for pupils. The core purpose of the Trust is to help every person achieve things they never thought they could by relentlessly focussing on continuously improving learning and teaching and creating the best conditions for employees to thrive.

Strong systems and structures to evaluate and review the quality of teaching and the impact this has on students' learning are well established. These systems have evolved from effective collaborative networks the Trust has established with other high performing Trusts and schools. The Principal / CEO leads the Bolton Learning Partnership and through this work strong collaborative networks have been embedded within Bolton, across the North West and the country. These strong networks cover the full education sector from the independent sector to special education and FE. These networks are supporting greater innovation and capacity to continuously improve. The Trust has an overarching objective to be amongst the top 10% high performing schools/Trust in England. Little Lever school was one of the most improved schools in the country in 2019. This was followed by an OfSTED inspection in 2022 which judged the school Good in all areas. The Trust is ambitious in its pursuit of excellence and aims to create the best conditions to continually enhance the life chances of the pupils that attend any school within the Lever Academy Trust. Plans are in place to achieve this and the Trustees and Senior Leadership Team constantly review performance to ensure progress is being made towards achieving this.

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Trustees' Report (continued)

A significant part of delivering this success is having good relationships and partnerships with pupils, staff, parents/guardians and suppliers. It also requires strong leadership and management. In order to achieve these objectives, it is imperative the Trust has tight financial control of all of its assets and utilises them in the best possible way. The budgeting process is integrated with curriculum planning. The budget takes full account of the Trust school improvement plans, pupil numbers, curriculum delivery, class sizes, SEND, behaviour and available income.

The success of the community relies on the success of the Trust. The Trust is educating the community of today and tomorrow. The community needs well educated, rounded and emotionally intelligent residents to create a cohesive and fair society. The Trust sees itself as a vehicle for social mobility within the context and community of people it serves. We want to create a generation of people who are successful in the world of work and who contribute positively to society. The Trust believes it has an important role to play in delivering these attributes for the local community.

Financial Review

The Trust's total incoming resources during the year was £9,297,925 This is split as follows:

Revenue Income (Restricted and Unrestricted)	£8,335,637
Capital Income	£ 962,288

The majority of the trust's operating income derives from central government funding via the Education Funding Agency, in the form of current grants. Total funding received for the trust's educational operations in the year was £8,239,545 and further details are provided in the notes to the accounts.

Total outgoing resources for the year were £8,723,629 and the majority of the resources expended relate to the direct provision of educational operations. This is split as follows:

Revenue Expenditure	£ 8,174,380
Pension	(£ 150,000)
Capital Expenditure	£ 699,248

The trust does not have an obligation to settle the full liability of the Local Government Pension Fund immediately and there are no indications that it will crystallise in the foreseeable future.

As at 31st August 2025 all assets shown in the accounts were used in line with the aims and objectives of the trust as indicated in the Articles of Association.

The Trust generated an in-year deficit of £38,035 for the year ending 31st August 2025. The cumulative unrestricted revenue surplus as at 31st August stood at £479,336. A transfer to Capital was made of £199,292 which relates to CIF project work and the 3G Pitch.

The Trust had an in year planned deficit in 2024/25 and expenditure has been reviewed to ensure that there are sustainable cost-effective budget plans going forward.

The total amount of reserves as at 31st August 2025, is £8,348,977.

Of the reserves, £7,869,641 can only be realised by the disposal of tangible fixed assets (restricted fixed asset fund).

The trust has a balance on the unrestricted reserve fund of £409,821

The balance of restricted general funds (excluding pension reserve) plus the balance on unrestricted funds at 31st August 2025 is a net surplus of £479,336.

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Trustees' Report (continued)

Reserves Policy

The Trust will build and maintain a revenue reserve fund to provide flexibility and certainty in forward planning.

The Trust is striving to generate an in year surplus year on year. The Trust needs to hold reserves for a number of reasons, examples of which are listed below:

- A contingency fund to deal with minor adjustments to operational expenditure from some budget headings.
- A planned accumulation of funds to pay for some major construction work or project.
- Expenditure held over to the following year to withstand variations in the level of funding to the Trust to balance out variations in funding levels.
- Potential redundancy payments to staff; and
- Anticipated increases in cost of living and pension contributions and the growing gap between income and expenditure.

All revenue reserves are controlled by the Trust Board and cannot be spent without the approval of the Board.

In accordance with EFA and charity accounting standards, the Trust will maintain financial records which identify revenue reserves by school.

The Trust will build and maintain a capital reserve fund in line with the reserves approved by the Board from time to time.

If the Trust wishes to utilise accumulated reserves for a particular purpose, the Chief Finance Officer must submit a 'Request to Use Reserves Form' to the Trustee. The Trustees review the level of reserves on a termly basis. At 31 August 2025, the trust had surplus balance on its Unrestricted and Restricted revenue reserves.

Investment Policy

All investments are agreed by the Board of Trustees, which has regard to the Charity Commission guidance in relation to charity investment policy. The trust understands the need to ensure all funds

invested are safe and risk free. The trustees have adopted a low-risk strategy to its cash holdings. Currently the Trust does not hold any funds in an interest-bearing account given the low levels of returns.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the trust is exposed, in particular those relating to teaching, health and safety, child protection, finances and facilities management. These risks are reviewed on an on-going basis by the Senior Leadership Team. These risks are formally reviewed by the Responsible Officer and trustees termly. A number of operational and financial systems and procedures have been implemented in order to minimise specific risks. A risk register has been developed which identifies the potential impact of said risk and actions undertaken to mitigate the risk.

The internal financial systems are based on the Academies Trust Handbook and are documented in the Academy manual of financial procedures. The systems are based on a framework of segregation of duties and Scheme of Delegation which include authorisation and approval. Financial management information is provided to the Principal and Chair of Trustees once a month and the Board of Trustees on a termly basis.

The responsible officer role has been fulfilled during the year by Cofie Limited who undertook two operational systems and controls audit and reviews the risk register. A comprehensive and intensive audit check was carried out in October/November 2025 by Xeinadin. A report was presented to the Board of Trustees on the results.

Lever Academy Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

The main risks identified by the Board of Trustees for the year ending 31st August 2025 are:

1. **Finances:** The Trust has had a deficit in year balance which although was planned certain the cumulative reserves have reduced. This is a particular risk as the Trust is embarking on an expansion plan in agreement with the Local Authority. In order to ensure financial viability during a period of lagged funding the trust has developed robust plans taking account of known information alongside regular detailed monitoring. A thorough review of expenditure and staffing is continuous as the Trust seeks to ensure strong financial control of its operations through the period of expansion.
 2. **ICT Infrastructure and Resources:** The Trust recognised this risk and implemented a current state analysis which took place over the summer of 2024, this detailed areas of improvement required to meet the IT service and digital equipment standards. An ongoing ICT strategic plan is being established to ensure all areas of weaknesses are rectified and the Trust is future proof for the next five years.
 3. **Expansion project risks:** The Trust have agreed to increase the PAN of Little Lever School by an addition 30 pupils for four years. Whilst this is taking place it is important to ensure the project stays on track, within budget and does not impact the safety or academic success of current pupils.
 4. **Finances and pupil numbers:** Lagged funding for the increase in pupil numbers will be challenging but careful monitoring and the use of the CLFP ensures risks are minimal.
3. **ICT Infrastructure and Resources:** The explosion and accessibility of AI technology and the impact on education. An AI policy is currently being completed alongside an AI working party to ensure the Trust has a strategy which will ensure the use of AI safely and effectively to enhance pupils learning experiences.

Fundraising

The trust does not receive any donations from commercial / professional sources. There are no organised fundraising activities for internal use. The trust has a facility in ParentPay that is open to donations from parents/carers. The purpose of the donations is clearly identified at the donation page. All donations are accounted separately in School accounts. Additionally, the school holds 'non uniform days' for pupils and staff with a voluntary donation. All donated funds from these events are passed in full to charities identified at the outset.

Plans for Future Periods

Lever Academy Trust will continue to work to achieve our core purpose. Delivering the core purpose of 'helping every student achieve things they never thought they could' and improving the life chances of the students is central to the strategic direction of the academy. The academy sees learning as the most important thing it does and will focus relentlessly on the curriculum and classroom practice. As a result, we will ensure our outcomes continue to rise and our Progress 8 score is well above the national average. The academy will also focus sharply on narrowing the gap in achievement between identified cohorts with particular focus on disadvantaged students and boys. Our ultimate aim is to support more young people to achieve things they never thought they could across a range of educational settings. As a result the school is expanding and increasing the Pupil Admission Number (PAN). This will provide further financial capacity to continue to improve the educational provision for children.

Lever Academy Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

Funds Held as Custodian Trustee on Behalf of Others

The Academy does not hold funds as Custodian on behalf of others.


Auditor

Insofar as the trustees are aware:

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

Xeinadin have expressed their willingness to remain in office as auditors to the trust.

Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 8th December 2025 and signed on the board's behalf by:

Signed  .

Sally McFarlane

Chair of Trust

Date 08/12/2025.

Lever Academy Trust

Governance Statement

Scope of Responsibility

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

As trustees, we have reviewed and taken account of the guidance in DfE's Governance Handbook and competency framework for governance. The skills and capability of the Trustees is accessed annual to identify and gaps. If gaps are identified they are addressed with training or recruitment of the necessary skills. The Trustees are aware of their obligation regarding the ESFA Financial Handbook, Charities Commission, Companies House, and the DfE's Governance Handbook and competency frameworks. The Trustees believe that compliance is not just about operating within the rules but more about behaving in a way that recognises the spirit of good governance and public life.

The board of trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the principal, 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 Lever Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The **board of trustees** has formally met 3 times during the year, plus one extra-ordinary meeting. Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of trustees was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings Attended	Out of a Possible
S McFarlane (Chair)	4	4
J Cornally (Vice Chair)	2	4
R Foster	3	4
V Gavin	4	4
M Isherwood	2	4
J Jones	4	4
A Middlemass	4	4
D Webb	4	4
A O'Callaghan	0	2

A O'Callaghan was appointed to the Trust on the 11th of December 2024.

Lever Academy Trust

Governance Statement (continued)

The **Risk and Audit Committee** has formally met 3 times this year.

Trustee	Meetings Attended	Out of a Possible
A Middlemass	3	3
R Foster	2	3
V Gavin (Chair)	2	3
M Isherwood	1	1
J Jones	1	1

The **Resources Committee** has formally met 4 times this year.

Trustee	Meetings Attended	Out of a Possible
S McFarlane	3	4
M Isherwood	4	4
J Jones	1	1
D Webb (Chair)	4	4

The **Standards Committee** has formally met 3 times this year.

Trustee	Meetings Attended	Out of a Possible
J Jones (Chair)	3	3
J Cornally	1	1
A O'Callaghan	2	2
S McFarlane	2	2
A Middlemass	1	1

Review of Value for Money

As accounting officer the principal 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.

Lever Academy Trust

Governance Statement (continued)

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

At least twice a year review the organisation's structure. This is done considering:

- Pupil numbers
 - Curriculum requirements/Curriculum map/
 - SEN requirements
 - Attendance
 - Behaviour
 - Pupil progress/attainment
 - Pupil Premium and closing the gap
 - Number of teachers
 - SLT/TLR's
 - Educational support staff
 - Other support staff
 - Impact of all resources
 - Buildings capacity and risk
-
- All decisions consider the best value principles of economy, efficiency, and effectiveness.
 - The trust uses a debit card to benefit from online purchasing, while taking in to account the safety and reputation of the retailer such as Amazon.
 - The trust uses collaborative purchasing with either local schools or nationally tendered contracts.
 - All consumable orders are finalised by finance staff who seek best value by directing orders to the most appropriate supplier. Service level agreements are reviewed and compared with current market trends.
 - The principal and the board of trustees regularly review forecasts and staffing requirements. The senior management team receives regular budgetary updates allowing for fully informed management decisions.
 - The Trust has developed its Risk Register to not only mitigate cash to identify areas of risk that have the potential to drive up cost. The Risk Register provides a checking point to ensure the Trust focuses on what is important and has the potential to undermine what the Trust is trying to achieve.

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 Lever Academy 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.

Lever Academy Trust

Governance Statement (continued)

Capacity to Handle Risk

The board of trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the academy trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the 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 general purposes 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
- identification and management of risks
- Rigorous use of Curriculum Led Financial Planning to inform strategy

The board of trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided to appoint an internal auditor. Cofie Limited, will provide independent experienced qualified accountants, to perform additional checks in the role of Responsible Officer and Scrutineer. For the new financial year a detailed audit plan has been agreed that will ensure termly review of finance, governance and any areas of risk.

The reviewer's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the academy trust's financial systems. In particular the checks carried out in the current period included:

- Bank and Cash
- Credit Card
- Purchases and Expenses
- Capital Expenditure
- Related Party Transactions
- Income
- Payroll
- Head Teachers Review
- Management Accounts
- System Control
- Estate Management

The audit and scrutiny will be risk led, if areas of risk are identified the Trustees will assess if external expert input would help better manage risk moving forward.

Lever Academy Trust

Governance Statement (continued)

On an annual basis, the **reviewer** reports to the board of trustees, through the **Risk and Audit committee** on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities.

The reviewer found that the controls upon which the Academy relies to manage its financial affairs (covering the areas above) are suitably designed, consistently applied and effective.

Review of Effectiveness

As accounting officer the principal 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 reviewer
- the work of the external auditor
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process
- the work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework

The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the above and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

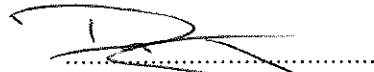
Conclusion

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 8th December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Sally McFarlane
Chair of Trust



Dominic Mckeon
Principal and Accounting Officer

Date: 08/12/2025

Date: 08/12/2025

Lever Academy Trust

Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance

As accounting officer of Lever Academy Trust, I confirm that I have had due regard to the framework of authorities governing regularity, propriety and compliance, including the trust's funding agreement with 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 no instances of material irregularity, impropriety or funding non-compliance have been discovered to date. If any instances are identified after the date of this statement, these will be notified to the board of trustees and DfE.



.....
Dominic Mckeon
Accounting Officer

Date: 08/12/2025

Lever Academy Trust

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

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

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of 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 judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business

The 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 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 8th December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Sally McFarlane
Chair of Trust

Date: 08/12/2025

Lever Academy Trust

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Lever Academy Trust

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Lever Academy Trust (the 'Academy') for the year ended 31 August 2025, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows and Notes to the Financial Statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Academy's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the original financial statements were 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 (covers the Reference and administrative details, the Trustees' report and the Governance statement)

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Lever Academy Trust

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Lever Academy Trust (continued)

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' report.

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

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

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities [set out on page 23], the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor Responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Lever Academy Trust

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Lever Academy Trust (continued)

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

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the trust through discussions with directors and other management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the academies sector;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the trust, including the Companies Act 2006, taxation legislation and data protection, anti-bribery, employment, environmental, and health and safety legislation;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

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

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

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

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

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

Lever Academy Trust

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Lever Academy Trust (continued)

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- reviewing correspondence with HMRC, and the trust's legal advisors

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

Use of our report

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

.....*S Leitch-Devlin*.....

Simon Leitch-Devlin (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of Xeinadin Audit Limited, Statutory Auditor

Riverside House
Kings Reach Business Park
Yew Street
Stockport
Cheshire
SK4 2HD

Date:.....*12/12/2025*.....

Lever Academy Trust

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Lever Academy Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 10 May 2023 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 Lever Academy 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 Lever Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we may state to Lever Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Lever Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the accounting officer of Lever Academy Trust and the reporting accountant

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of Lever Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 30 November 2015 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 year from 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 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 work undertaken to draw our conclusion includes:

Lever Academy Trust

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Lever Academy Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (continued)

- We have confirmed that the activities conform to the 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 trust are within the 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 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 trust's framework of authorities. We confirm that each item tested has been appropriately authorised in accordance with the trust's delegated authorities and that the internal delegations have been approved by the Trust Board and conform to the limits set by the Department for Education.
- Formal representations have been obtained from the Trust Board 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 the other income and rested whether activities are permitted within the trust's charitable objectives.

Conclusion

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

Xeinadin

Reporting Accountant

Xeinadin Audit Limited

Riverside House
Kings Reach Business Park
Yew Street
Stockport
Cheshire
SK4 2HD

Date:.....12/12/2025

Lever Academy Trust

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

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Pension Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2024/25 Total £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	2	-	-	-	962,288	962,288
Other trading activities	4	96,008	-	-	-	96,008
Investments	5	84	-	-	-	84
<i>Charitable activities:</i>						
Funding for the Academy trust's educational operations	3	-	8,239,545	-	-	8,239,545
Total		96,092	8,239,545	-	962,288	9,297,925
Expenditure on:						
<i>Charitable activities:</i>						
Academy trust educational operations	7	4,350	8,170,030	(150,000)	699,248	8,723,628
Net income		91,742	69,515	150,000	263,040	574,297
Transfers between funds		(199,292)	-	-	199,292	-
Other recognised gains and losses						
Actuarial (losses) / gains on defined benefit pension schemes	25	-	-	(150,000)	-	(150,000)
Net movement in (deficit)/funds		(107,550)	69,515	-	462,332	424,297
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward at 1 September 2024		517,371	-	-	7,407,309	7,924,680
Total funds carried forward at 31 August 2025		409,821	69,515	-	7,869,641	8,348,977

Lever Academy Trust

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

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Pension Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2023/24 Total £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	2	-	32,478	-	185,912	218,390
Other trading activities	4	153,509	-	-	-	153,509
Investments	5	144	-	-	-	144
<i>Charitable activities:</i>						
Funding for the Academy trust's educational operations	3	-	7,742,591	-	-	7,742,591
Total		153,653	7,775,069	-	185,912	8,114,634
Expenditure on:						
<i>Charitable activities:</i>						
Academy trust educational operations	7	7,516	8,478,286	(131,000)	738,490	9,093,292
Net income/(expenditure)		146,137	(703,217)	131,000	(552,578)	(978,658)
Transfers between funds		(190,674)	364,671	-	(173,997)	-
Other recognised gains and losses						
Actuarial (losses) / gains on defined benefit pension schemes	25	-	-	(131,000)	-	(131,000)
Net movement in deficit		(44,537)	(338,546)	-	(726,575)	(1,109,658)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward at 1 September 2023		561,908	338,546	-	8,133,884	9,034,338
Total funds carried forward at 31 August 2024		517,371	-	-	7,407,309	7,924,680

Lever Academy Trust

(Registration number: 09677480)
Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2025

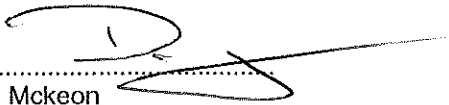
	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	7,769,522	7,364,615
Current assets			
Debtors	12	637,660	352,330
Cash at bank and in hand		905,118	674,291
		<u>1,542,778</u>	<u>1,026,621</u>
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year		<u>(880,008)</u>	<u>(365,216)</u>
Net current assets		<u>662,770</u>	<u>661,405</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		8,432,292	8,026,020
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	14	<u>(83,315)</u>	<u>(101,340)</u>
Net assets excluding pension asset		<u>8,348,977</u>	<u>7,924,680</u>
Total net assets		<u><u>8,348,977</u></u>	<u><u>7,924,680</u></u>
Funds of the Academy:			
Restricted funds			
Restricted general fund	15	69,515	-
Restricted fixed asset fund	15	<u>7,869,641</u>	<u>7,407,309</u>
		7,939,156	7,407,309
Unrestricted funds			
Unrestricted general fund	15	<u>409,821</u>	<u>517,371</u>
Total funds		<u><u>8,348,977</u></u>	<u><u>7,924,680</u></u>

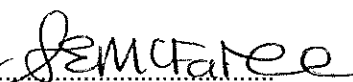
Lever Academy Trust

(Registration number: 09677480)

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2025 (continued)

The financial statements on pages 30 to 58 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on~~08/12/2025~~ and signed on their behalf by:


.....
D Mckeon
Trustee


.....
S McFarlane (Chair of Trust)
Trustee

Lever Academy Trust

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	19	390,637	(435,570)
Cash flows from investing activities	20	(141,785)	(393,777)
Cash flows from financing activities	21	<u>(18,025)</u>	<u>(21,806)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		230,827	(851,153)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September		<u>674,291</u>	<u>1,525,444</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August	22	<u><u>905,118</u></u>	<u><u>674,291</u></u>

Lever Academy Trust

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

1 Accounting policies

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

Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the academy trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020 issued by EFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

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

Going concern

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the 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.

Income

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

Grants

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

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

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

Lever Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Donations

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

Other income

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

Donated goods, facilities and services

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

Donated fixed assets

Where the donated good is a fixed asset, it is measured at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor 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.

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 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.

Lever Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Tangible fixed assets

Assets costing £1,000 or more in value or those that are deemed to be desirable are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than freehold land, at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful lives, per the table below.

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use.

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.

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Leasehold buildings	Straight line 2-4%
Leasehold land	Straight line 125 years
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Straight line 20%
ICT hardware	Straight line 25%

Liabilities

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

Provisions

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

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

Lever Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Leased assets

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

Financial Instruments

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 12. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Amounts due to the charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 13. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument. Amounts due to charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

Taxation

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

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

Lever Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Pension benefits

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

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

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

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

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/Department for Education.

Restricted pension funds comprise all income, costs and actuarial valuations associated with the Local Government pension scheme (LGPS).

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Lever Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 25, will impact 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 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2023. 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.

Lever Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

2 Donations and capital grants

	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2024/25 Total £	2023/24 Total £
Educational trips and visits	-	-	32,478
Capital grants	962,288	962,288	185,912
	<u>962,288</u>	<u>962,288</u>	<u>218,390</u>

3 Funding for the academy trust's charitable activities

	Restricted General Funds £	2024/25 Total £	2023/24 Total £
Educational operations			
DfE/DfE revenue grants			
General Annual Grant (GAG)	6,920,541	6,920,541	6,604,035
Other DfE/ESFA grants	73,670	73,670	116,426
Teachers Pay and Pension Grant	270,266	270,266	182,575
Core School Budget Grant	257,677	257,677	-
Pupil Premium	315,765	315,765	315,217
Supplementary Grant	-	-	234,680
	<u>7,837,919</u>	<u>7,837,919</u>	<u>7,452,933</u>
Other government grants			
Local authority grants	30,685	30,685	30,271
Special educational projects	370,941	370,941	259,387
	<u>401,626</u>	<u>401,626</u>	<u>289,658</u>
Total grants	<u>8,239,545</u>	<u>8,239,545</u>	<u>7,742,591</u>

4 Other trading activities

Lever Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

4 Other trading activities (continued)

	Unrestricted Funds £	2024/25 Total £	2023/24 Total £
Hire of facilities	67,979	67,979	64,843
Other sales	28,029	28,029	88,666
	<u>96,008</u>	<u>96,008</u>	<u>153,509</u>

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	2024/25 Total £	2023/24 Total £
Oth Inc-Investment income	-	-	75
Oth Inc-Bank Interest	84	84	69
	<u>84</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>144</u>

6 Expenditure

	Staff costs £	Non Pay Expenditure		2024/25 Total £	2023/24 Total £
		Premises £	Other costs £		
Academy trust's educational operations					
Direct costs	5,144,572	352,059	862,501	6,359,132	7,020,584
Allocated support costs	<u>1,281,219</u>	<u>771,695</u>	<u>311,582</u>	<u>2,364,496</u>	<u>2,072,708</u>
	<u>6,425,791</u>	<u>1,123,754</u>	<u>1,174,083</u>	<u>8,723,628</u>	<u>9,093,292</u>

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2024/25 £	2023/24 £
Operating leases - other leases	9,783	9,362
Fees payable to auditor - audit	11,290	10,750
- other audit services	4,335	4,125
Depreciation	<u>699,250</u>	<u>738,490</u>

Lever Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

7 Charitable activities

		Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Direct costs		6,359,132	7,020,584
Support costs - educational operations		<u>2,364,496</u>	<u>2,072,708</u>
		<u>8,723,628</u>	<u>9,093,292</u>
	Educational operations £	2024/25 Total £	2023/24 Total £
Analysis of support costs			
Support staff costs	1,281,219	1,281,219	787,254
Depreciation	347,189	347,189	345,213
Technology costs	37,871	37,871	45,048
Premises costs	424,506	424,506	520,092
Legal costs - other	25,889	25,889	43,475
Other support costs	226,007	226,007	326,693
Governance costs	<u>21,815</u>	<u>21,815</u>	<u>4,933</u>
Total support costs	<u>2,364,496</u>	<u>2,364,496</u>	<u>2,072,708</u>

Lever Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

8 Staff

Staff costs and employee benefits

	2024/25 £	2023/24 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	4,651,203	4,639,103
Social security costs	556,503	500,528
Pension costs	1,085,977	992,599
	<u>6,293,683</u>	<u>6,132,230</u>
Supply teacher costs	118,108	177,538
Staff restructuring costs	14,000	-
	<u>6,425,791</u>	<u>6,309,768</u>
		2024/25 £
Staff restructuring costs comprise:		
Severance payments		<u>14,000</u>

Severance payments

The academy trust paid 2 severance payments in the year disclosed in the following bands:

	2024/25 £
0 - £25,000	<u>2</u>

Non statutory/non-contractual staff severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are non-statutory/non-contractual severance payments totalling £14,000 (2024: £Nil). Individually, the payments were:

Non-contractual payments £6,219

Non-contractual payments £7,781

Lever Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

8 Staff (continued)

Staff numbers

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

	2024/25 No	2023/24 No
Teachers	45	57
Administration and support	44	59
Management	12	9
	<u>101</u>	<u>125</u>

Higher paid staff

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

	2025 No	2024 No
£60,001 - £70,000	6	8
£70,001 - £80,000	4	1
£90,001 - £100,000	1	1
£120,001 - £130,000	-	1
£130,001 - £140,000	1	-

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 £1,226,849 (2024: £930,844).

9 Related party transactions - trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from employment with the Academy Trust. The principal and other staff trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal and staff members under their contracts of employment.

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

D Mckeen (Headteacher):

Remuneration: £125,000 - £130,000 (2024 - £125,000 - £130,000)

Employer's pension contributions: £35,000 - £40,000 (2024 - £25,000 - £30,000)

During the year ended 31 August 2025, travel and subsistence expenses totalling £Nil (2024 - £Nil) were reimbursed or paid directly to trustees (2024 -).

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

Lever Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

10 Trustees' and officers' insurance

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

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold land and buildings £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer hardware £	2024/25 Total £
Cost				
At 1 September 2024	9,105,405	2,102,062	529,471	11,736,938
Additions	946,196	144,802	13,159	1,104,157
At 31 August 2025	10,051,601	2,246,864	542,630	12,841,095
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2024	2,683,588	1,296,663	392,072	4,372,323
Charge for the year	347,190	305,410	46,650	699,250
At 31 August 2025	3,030,778	1,602,073	438,722	5,071,573
Net book value				
At 31 August 2025	7,020,823	644,791	103,908	7,769,522
At 31 August 2024	6,421,817	805,399	137,399	7,364,615

Lever Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

12 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	4,213	18,395
VAT recoverable	150,614	63,479
Prepayments	79,041	50,138
Accrued grant and other income	403,792	220,318
	<u>637,660</u>	<u>352,330</u>

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	684,461	110,373
Loans	17,835	19,299
Other creditors	-	20,115
Accruals	132,383	215,429
Deferred income	45,329	-
	<u>880,008</u>	<u>365,216</u>
	2025 £	2024 £

Deferred income

Deferred income at 1 September 2024	-	32,319
Resources deferred in the period	45,329	-
Amounts released from previous periods	-	(32,319)
Deferred income at 31 August 2025	<u>45,329</u>	<u>-</u>

At the balance sheet date the academy trust was holding funds received in advance for Trip income received in respect of 25/26

14 Creditors: amounts falling due in greater than one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Loans	<u>83,315</u>	<u>101,340</u>

Lever Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

15 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2025 £
Restricted funds					
<i>Restricted general funds</i>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	6,920,541	(6,851,026)	-	69,515
Other Dfe/EFA grants	-	73,670	(73,670)	-	-
Local authority grants	-	30,685	(30,685)	-	-
Special educational projects	-	370,941	(370,941)	-	-
Teachers Pay & Pension	-	270,266	(270,266)	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	315,765	(315,765)	-	-
Core School Budget Grant	-	257,677	(257,677)	-	-
<i>Restricted fixed asset funds</i>					
3G Pitch replacement fund	-	-	-	100,000	100,000
Fixed assets owned by academy	5,628,220	-	(464,703)	-	5,163,517
DfE/EFA Capital Grants DFC	301,627	962,288	(104,026)	(4,007)	1,155,882
CIF	<u>1,477,462</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(130,519)</u>	<u>103,299</u>	<u>1,450,242</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>7,407,309</u>	<u>9,201,833</u>	<u>(8,869,278)</u>	<u>199,292</u>	<u>7,939,156</u>
<i>Unrestricted general funds</i>					
Unrestricted general funds	<u>517,371</u>	<u>96,092</u>	<u>(4,350)</u>	<u>(199,292)</u>	<u>409,821</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>517,371</u>	<u>96,092</u>	<u>(4,350)</u>	<u>(199,292)</u>	<u>409,821</u>
Total endowment funds	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds	<u>7,924,680</u>	<u>9,297,925</u>	<u>(8,873,628)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,348,977</u>

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

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

15 Funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
Restricted funds					
<i>Restricted general funds</i>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	338,546	6,604,035	(7,307,252)	364,671	-
Other DfE/EFA grants	-	116,426	(116,426)	-	-
Local authority grants	-	30,271	(30,271)	-	-
Special educational projects	-	259,387	(259,387)	-	-
Supplementary grants	-	234,680	(234,680)	-	-
Other income	-	32,478	(32,478)	-	-
Teachers Pay & Pension	-	182,575	(182,575)	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	315,217	(315,217)	-	-
<i>Restricted fixed asset funds</i>					
3G Pitch replacement fund	90,000	-	-	(90,000)	-
Fixed assets owned by academy	6,319,019	-	(606,802)	(83,997)	5,628,220
DfE/EFA Capital Grants DFC	145,449	185,912	(29,734)	-	301,627
CIF	1,579,416	-	(101,954)	-	1,477,462
<i>Pension reserve funds</i>					
Restricted Pension fund	-	-	131,000	(131,000)	-
Total restricted funds	<u>8,472,430</u>	<u>7,960,981</u>	<u>(9,085,776)</u>	<u>59,674</u>	<u>7,407,309</u>
<i>Unrestricted general funds</i>					
Unrestricted general funds	<u>561,908</u>	<u>153,653</u>	<u>(7,516)</u>	<u>(190,674)</u>	<u>517,371</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>561,908</u>	<u>153,653</u>	<u>(7,516)</u>	<u>(190,674)</u>	<u>517,371</u>
Total endowment funds	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds	<u>9,034,338</u>	<u>8,114,634</u>	<u>(9,093,292)</u>	<u>(131,000)</u>	<u>7,924,680</u>

Lever Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

15 Funds (continued)

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

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

Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by the Education Funding Agency/Department for Education/sponsor/other 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 Education Funding Agency/Department for Education.

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2025 are represented by:

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General & Pension Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Total Funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	7,769,522	7,769,522
Current assets	409,821	1,032,838	100,119	1,542,778
Current liabilities	-	(880,008)	-	(880,008)
Creditors over 1 year	-	(83,315)	-	(83,315)
Total net assets	<u>409,821</u>	<u>69,515</u>	<u>7,869,641</u>	<u>8,348,977</u>

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

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General & Pension Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Total Funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	7,364,615	7,364,615
Current assets	517,371	466,556	42,694	1,026,621
Current liabilities	-	(365,216)	-	(365,216)
Creditors over 1 year	-	(101,340)	-	(101,340)
Total net assets	<u>517,371</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,407,309</u>	<u>7,924,680</u>

Lever Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

17 Capital commitments

	2025 £	2024 £
Contracted for, but not provided in the financial statements	<u>593,272</u>	<u>149,647</u>

18 Commitments under operating leases

Operating leases

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

	2025 £	2024 £
Amounts due within one year	<u>4,892</u>	<u>2,340</u>

Lever Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

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

	2024/25 £	2023/24 £
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	574,297	(978,658)
Depreciation	699,250	738,490
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(962,288)	(185,912)
Interest receivable	(84)	(144)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	(108,000)	(103,000)
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	(42,000)	(28,000)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(285,330)	343,389
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	514,792	(221,735)
Net cash provided by/(used in) Operating Activities	<u>390,637</u>	<u>(435,570)</u>

20 Cash flows from investing activities

	2024/25 £	2023/24 £
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	84	144
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(1,104,157)	(579,833)
Capital funding received from sponsors and others	962,288	185,912
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(141,785)</u>	<u>(393,777)</u>

21 Cash flows from financing activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Repayments of borrowing	<u>(18,025)</u>	<u>(21,806)</u>
Net cash used in financing activities	<u>(18,025)</u>	<u>(21,806)</u>

22 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash in hand and at bank	<u>905,118</u>	<u>674,291</u>
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>905,118</u>	<u>674,291</u>

Lever Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

23 Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2024 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2025 £
Cash	674,291	230,827	905,118
Loans falling due within one year	(19,299)	1,464	(17,835)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(144,952)	61,637	(83,315)
	<u>(164,251)</u>	<u>63,101</u>	<u>(101,150)</u>
Total	<u>510,040</u>	<u>293,928</u>	<u>803,968</u>

Lever Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

24 Member liability

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

25 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 . Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

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

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

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme to which both 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

Lever Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

25 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

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 TPS in the period amounted to £652,652 (2024: £625,850).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website (<https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2019/04/teachers-pensions-valuation-report.aspx>).

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 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 scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2025 was £425,000 (2024 - £440,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £334,000 (2024 - £347,000) and employees' contributions totalled £91,000 (2024 - £93,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are per cent for employers and to 12.5 per cent for employees.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of an academy trust closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013 and on 21 July 2022, the Department for Education reaffirmed its commitment to the guarantee, with a parliamentary minute published on GOV.UK.

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2025	2024
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.50	3.50
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.70	2.70
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	<u>6.10</u>	<u>5.00</u>

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

	2025	2024
Retiring today		
Males retiring today	20.00	19.80
Females retiring today	23.70	23.60
Retiring in 20 years		
Males retiring in 20 years	21.10	20.90
Females retiring in 20 years	<u>25.00</u>	<u>24.90</u>

Lever Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

25 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Sensitivity analysis

	2025	2024
	£	£
Discount rate -0.1%	80,000	97,000
Salary increase rate +0.1%	4,000	5,000
1 year increase in member life expectancy	130,000	149,000
Pension increase rate +0.1%	<u>79,000</u>	<u>94,000</u>

The academy trust's share of the assets in the scheme were:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Equities	3,415,750	3,102,240
Corporate bonds	893,350	674,400
Property	472,950	359,680
Cash and other liquid assets	<u>472,950</u>	<u>359,680</u>
Total market value of assets	<u>5,255,000</u>	<u>4,496,000</u>

The actual return on scheme assets was £353,000 (2024 - £366,000).

Lever Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

25 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2024/25 £	2023/24 £
Current service cost	(108,000)	(103,000)
Interest income	(235,000)	(204,000)
Interest cost	193,000	176,000
Total amount recognized in the SOFA	<u>(150,000)</u>	<u>(131,000)</u>

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

	2024/25 £	2023/24 £
At start of period	4,496,000	3,221,000
Current service cost	226,000	244,000
Interest cost	193,000	176,000
Employee contributions	91,000	93,000
Actuarial (gain)/loss	(946,000)	(2,000)
Benefits paid	(19,000)	(17,000)
FRS 102 accounts adjustment	1,214,000	781,000
At 31 August	<u>5,255,000</u>	<u>4,496,000</u>

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

	2024/25 £	2023/24 £
At start of period	4,496,000	3,707,000
Interest income	235,000	204,000
Actuarial gain/(loss)	118,000	162,000
Employer contributions	334,000	347,000
Employee contributions	91,000	93,000
Benefits paid	(19,000)	(17,000)
At 31 August	<u>5,255,000</u>	<u>4,496,000</u>

At 31 August 2025, the defined benefit pension scheme has an excess of assets over liabilities of £1,995,000. The academy has not received any formal notification of recovery of the surplus, either by reduced contributions or refunds. Therefore, this does not constitute an asset under FRS 102 and a nil balance is included in the balance sheet at 31 August 2025.

26 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the academy trust and the composition of the board of trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the trustees have an interest. The following related party transactions took place in the financial period.

Lever Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

26 Related party transactions (continued)

Expenditure related party transactions

During the year the academy made the following related party transactions:

Bolton Impact Trust

(A company in which V Gavin (trustee) is SENCO and governor. In the prior year P Hodgkinson (trustee-resigned 17.07.2024) and D McKeon (Principal/Accounting Officer) were directors. D McKeon resigned as director of Bolton Impact Trust on 16.07.24.)

During the year the school paid £75,934 (2024: £110,835) to Bolton Impact Trust in respect of alternative provision places for pupils.

The transaction with Bolton Impact Trust is regarded as meeting the "at cost" requirement.

The PIXL Club Ltd

(A company in which J Cornally (trustee) is director)

During the year the school paid £nil (2024: £3,580) to PIXL Club for educational software and licences..

One Education

(R Foster (trustee) is employed by One Education.)

During the year the school paid £16,867 (2024: £nil) to One Education in respect of education services.

The transaction with Bolton Impact Trust is regarded as meeting the "at cost" requirement.

All transactions with Bolton Impact Trust have been conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook, including notifying DfE of all transactions made on or after 1 April 2019 and obtaining their approval where required, and with the academy trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures relating to connected and related party transactions.