Company Registration Number: 08936511 (England & Wales)

### THE MCAULEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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#### REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

#### Members

Rt. Reverend R Heskett Bishop of Hallam Diocese of Hallam (corporate trustee) G Thickett

#### Governors

G Thickett, Chair1,2

R Shay, Vice Chair1,2

A Coddington 1,2

P Hall (appointed 17 September 2025)2

Dr P J Hurley (resigned 18 June 2025)2

V V Joseph<sub>1,2</sub>

J Leitao1,2

K Matheson (appointed 19 December 2024)

D Sheehan (appointed 6 August 2025)2

A Tucker (appointed 25 March 2025)

J Tucker, Principal and Accounting Officer

S Wooliscroft

- Denotes Member of the Finance and Premises Committee which incorporates the function of the Audit Committee
- <sup>2</sup> Foundation Governors are appointed by the Bishop of Hallam

#### Company registered number

08936511

#### Company name

The McAuley Catholic High School

### Principal and registered office

The McAuley Catholic High School A Catholic Voluntary Academy Cantley Lane Doncaster South Yorkshire DN3 3QF

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### Senior leadership team

J Tucker, Headteacher J McGee, Deputy Headteacher K Ratcliffe, Deputy Headteacher J Allport, Associate Head A Driver, Associate Head N Henderson, Associate Head M Howse, Associate Head N Jefferies, Associate Head D Stuart, Associate Head

#### Independent auditors

Clive Owen LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
140 Coniscliffe Road
Darlington
Co Durham
DL3 7RT

#### Bankers

Barclays Bank PLC Sheffield City (2) Branch 2 Arena Court Sheffield S9 2LF

#### Solicitors

Taylor & Emmett LLP 20 Arundel Gate Sheffield S1 2PP

#### GOVERNORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

The Governors present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Governors' report and a directors' report under company law.

The academy operates an academy for pupils aged 11 to 18 serving a catchment area in the Diocese of Hallam, South Yorkshire. It has a pupil capacity of 1,500 and had a roll of 1,182 (2024: 1,193) in the 11-16 part of the school in Summer 2025. Additionally, there were 277 in the Sixth Form (2024: 238).

#### Structure, governance and management

#### Constitution

The academy is a charitable company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's Articles of Association is the primary governing document of the academy.

The Governors of The McAuley Catholic High School are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as The McAuley Catholic High School.

Details of the Governors 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.

#### Governors' indemnities

The academy has purchased insurance to protect Governors from claims arising against negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. Further details are provided in note 12 of the Financial Statements.

#### GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

#### Structure, governance and management (continued)

#### Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Governors

The Articles of Association and Funding Agreement are the Primary Documents that govern the appointment of Governors. These allow:

- The Members may directly appoint 1 Governor
- . Up to 3 Governors elected by parents, eligible by virtue of being a parent of pupil at the time of the election
- · Up to 3 Governors elected by staff at the school
- A minimum of 11 Foundation Governors appointed by the Bishop of Hallam
- Up to 1 Governor appointed by the existing Governors to represent the community
- . Up to 1 Governor appointed by the Our Lady of Doncaster Umbrella Trust
- . The Headteacher shall be an Ex Officio Governor
- At all times the number of Foundation Governors must exceed the total number of Governors of any other category by two
- The Board of Governors may also appoint up to 3 Co-opted Governors provided that
  - The number of Foundation governors is increased proportionately to ensure it exceeds the total of other governors Co-opted Governors do not take part in the appointment of further Co-opted Governors
  - The number of Co-opted Governors who are also employees of the school does not exceed one third of the total number of Governors

The term of office for any Governor shall be 4 years, save that this time limit shall not apply to the Headteacher, or any post held ex officio. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Governor, any Governor may be re-appointed or re-elected in accordance with the Articles.

#### Policies adopted for the induction and training of Governors

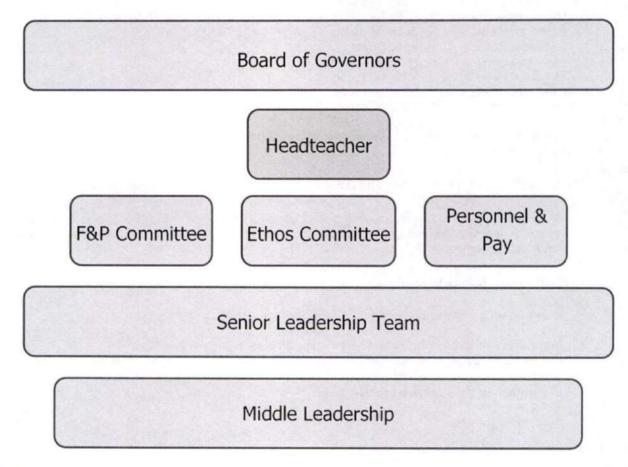
The training and induction provided for new Governors depends on their existing experience. Where necessary induction and training is provided on charity, educational, legal and financial matters. All new Governors are given the opportunity to see the school facilities and the chance to meet with staff and students. All Governors are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as Governors. All Governors are given access to the relevant areas of the school IT system where they can gather information, in addition to being made aware of external agencies and websites that provide information relevant to their role. As Governor appointments within any one year may be few in number induction tends to be done informally and is tailored specifically to the individual. A formal induction is undertaken by the Headteacher and Chair of Governors when more than one governor is appointed at any one time. A training programme is in place for Governor training and is provided by EDUCARE.

#### GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Structure, governance and management (continued)

#### Organisational structure

During the year the academy continued to operate a unified management structure. The structure consists of 5 levels: the Full Board of Governors, Subcommittees of the Board of Governors, the Headteacher, the Senior Leadership Team and the Middle Leaders Team. The aim of the management structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels.



#### The Governors:-

- Are responsible for the overall strategic direction of the school
- Are required to ensure the trust complies with:
  - Company Law & Regulations
  - Charity Law & Regulation
  - Statutes and Regulations issued by National Government via the DfE, ESFA and other relevant agencies
- Ensure the school operates in a manner that delivers an appropriate and effective stewardship of public funds
- Must appoint an Accounting Officer

This is achieved via the development of appropriate policies, procedures and practices which are implemented by the Executive of the school i.e. the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team.

The Board of Governors monitors the performance of the school and its compliance with relevant laws and regulations through:

A series of sub-committees focused on specific areas of operations

#### GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

#### Structure, governance and management (continued)

 The engagement of external third parties to undertake independent review and verification (e.g. external audit; external consultant)

The Senior Leadership Team is led by the Headteacher and, in addition to the Headteacher comprised in 2024/25:

Headteacher James Tucker Deputy Headteacher Jenna McGee Deputy Headteacher Katie Ratcliffe Associate Head Julianne Allport Associate Head Andy Driver Associate Head Nicole Henderson Associate Head Melissa Howse Associate Head Nicky Jefferies Associate Head Dave Stuart

The middle management of the academy is centred on subject leaders, pastoral leaders and leaders of key support services.

#### Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

Pay and remuneration for staff including the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and Senior teaching staff are set out in the schools pay policy which is reviewed each year in line with the School Teachers Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD).

#### Trade union facility time

#### Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the year	2
Full-time equivalent employee number	1

### Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0% 1%-50% 51%-99% 100%	2
Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time	£000
Total cost of facility time Total pay bill Percentage of total pay bill spent on facility time	9,011
Paid trade union activities	
Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	- %

#### GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Structure, governance and management (continued)

#### Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)

Employees have been consulted on issues of concern to them by means of regular consultative committee and staff meetings and have been kept informed on specific matters directly by management. The academy carries out exit interviews for all staff leaving the organisation and has adopted a procedure of upward feedback for senior management and the Governors.

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

- Equal opportunities policy
- Health & safety policy

In accordance with the academy's equal opportunities policy, the academy has long-established fair employment practices in the recruitment, selection, retention and training of disabled staff.

Lifts, ramps and disabled toilets are installed and door widths are adequate to enable wheelchair access to all main areas of the academy trust. The policy of the academy trust is to support recruitment and retention of students and employees with disabilities. The academy trust does this by adapting the physical environment by making support resources available and through training and career development.

#### Objectives and activities

The principal object and activity of the charitable company is the operation of The McAuley Catholic High School to provide education for students of different abilities between the ages of 11 and 19. The operation of the academy shall be conducted in accordance with the principles, practices and tenets of the Catholic Church.

In accordance with the articles of association the charitable company has adopted a 'Scheme of Government' approved by the Secretary of State for Education. The Scheme of Government specifies, amongst other things, the basis for admitting students to the academy, the catchment area from which the students are drawn, and that the curriculum should comply with the substance of the national curriculum, whilst upholding the principles and ethos of the Catholic Church, Religious Education is taught to all pupils.

#### GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

#### Objectives and activities (continued)

#### Objects and aims

The academy's main objectives are encompassed in its mission statement which is: "Each individual is challenged and nurtured to be the best person they can be in a Christian atmosphere of peace, justice and reconciliation".

Our aim is very simple we want to be the very best school that we can be for the benefit of the young people who choose to study here. At The McAuley Catholic High School, we are passionate about teaching and learning. The academy provides a high quality of teaching that excites, motivates and challenges all our young people. We truly believe that all members of our community are made "in the image and likeness of God" and are loved by Him. We want each of our students to recognise God in their daily lives. Our academy supports families to educate their children in accordance with the principles and teachings of the Catholic Church.

We endeavour to inspire each individual to grow and develop through the love and teaching of Christ and through nurturing their gifts and talents, into responsible citizens able to make a positive contribution to society. Our school community strives to be Christ-centred through opportunities to celebrate the Eucharist and through the practice of our Faith. We want everyone at McAuley to experience the joy of the Gospel in their journey through academy and beyond whatever their denomination or faith.

We offer a broad and balanced curriculum, where each student is equally valued, the uniqueness of each student is acknowledged and their abilities, aptitude and gifts are developed to the full. We encourage our students to demonstrate high levels of commitment and co-operation while all members of staff endeavour to provide maximum opportunities for learning and progression within a secure and safe environment. Our educational philosophy is based strongly on a partnership where home, school, parish and the wider community work closely together to provide maximum support for the educational process and for the young people in our care. We try to live each day by our school motto John 10:10:1 have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

The main objectives of the academy trust during the year ended 31 August 2025 are as summarised below:

#### 1. School Culture

Enhance school culture through embedding MCA (Motivated, Community, Achievement). Make our expectations clear to pupils and families, fostering their engagement.

#### 2. Teaching and Learning

Develop and embed a high-quality Teaching and Learning Framework supported by robust feedback, AfL, and curriculum coherence.

#### 3. Progress and Attainment

Raise attainment and progress measures across all key stages, with targeted support for key groups.

#### Public benefit

The academy's aims and achievements are set out within this report and have been undertaken to further its charitable purposes for the public benefit. The Governors have complied with the duty under Section 4 of the Charities act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales and the Governors have considered this guidance in deciding what activities the academy should undertake.

#### GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### Strategic report

#### Achievements and performance

#### Leadership and Governance

We have been able to recruit strong Governors in the last year with a backgrounds in industry and education. This experience has proved invaluable throughout the course of the year with the planning and management of school affairs. There is a full EDUCARE training package to support them in supporting and challenging the school.

The progress the school is making is challenged by our School Improvement Adviser, from the Bishop Wheeler Education Trust. Work has also been commissioned by the DfE as part of the PEIA scheme to improve English and Maths outcomes at Ks4. This work is ongoing and takes place over the course of 5 academic terms.

James Tucker was appointed as the Acting Headteacher in September 2023 and was also successful in gaining the substantive role in April 2024

Katie Ratcliffe was appointed Acting Deputy Headteacher in September 2023 and was also successful in gaining the substantive role in June 2024

Jenna McGee was appointed to the role of Deputy Headteacher (Starting 1st September 2024) ensuring the stability of leadership at the top of the school for the foreseeable future.

We were fully staffed with specialist teachers throughout 2024-25. We have addressed the retirement of a number of senior members of teaching staff where required, but also significantly cut down in FTE teachers to ease pressure on the school budget.

#### Finance

Significant improvements have taken place since the appointment of the CFO.

The school, despite staffing work, faces considerable challenges. The teacher and support staff pay rise of 2024 have all been honoured and backdated where necessary.

#### **Partnerships**

In pursuing our own strategic objective of being an inclusive school, we have developed a very positive partnership with Nexus Multi Academy Trust. Following an unsuccessful 'bid' from the school after expressing an interest in running a secondary provision for students with SEMH as part of the LA strategy, Nexus Multi Academy Trust, specialists in SEND Provision, won the 'bid' and the SEMH provision is up and running on the school site. Effectively, the school is hosting the provision. The facility is a stand-alone, prefabricated building owned by McAuley but leased to Nexus for the period of the project. All staffing, pupil admissions, accountability lies with Nexus.

As of September 2024 the Nexus Multi Academy Trust SEMH Hub is fully operational and continues to work in unison with The McAuley Catholic High School.

As part of a DFE initiative called the PEIA (Priority Education Improvement Area) the school has been working closely with The Bishop Wheeler Catholic MAT (Leeds) to improve outcomes on maths and English. This support began in July 2023 and will continue for five terms.

#### GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

#### Recognition

In the academic year 2023/24 The McAuley Catholic High School was successfully awarded the Ofsted grading of GOOD for overall effectiveness. The score graded as good in each aspect of the inspection. This was the culmination of a years of progress made in every facet of the school. The judgement secures schools status within the local area and has a credible influence on admission numbers.

In the past 3 academic years McAuley have produced the best Progress 8 score since the measure was introduced in 2016. Results for the year 2024/25 are currently showing a positive progress score which is a vast improvement on previous years and is a continuing trend when it comes to outcomes. Without the use of Progress 8 measures in the last academic year new headline figures are being used for benchmarking, however we still maintain soft data in school which correlates with progress data measures. These continue to show that academic progress is being made across the board and inline with national cohorts.

McAuley had it's third inspection visit and retained the status as a Centre of Excellence from the Inclusivity Quality Mark. The report looked at all areas of school life. The recommendation is that McAuley apply for 'Beacon School' status in the upcoming year in acknowledgement of the support offered to pupils.

The Headteacher's passion for the school and the young people of Doncaster washes over you within the first few minutes of meeting. It is evident that the leaders of the school believe in the power of an inclusive education and see themselves as 'servant leaders,' here to serve the school. The Headteacher is unapologetic when they say it is 'staff first' at McAuley. 'Happy staff; Happy students' is the Headteacher's philosophy in ensuring that the children's experience of McAuley is the best it can be as they are guided by adults who want to be there. This philosophy is working. The school has not seen the recruitment and retention issues other schools are facing and has successfully appointed positions in subjects that other settings struggle to recruit. During the assessor's visit the retention of staff was evident as there was a healthy mix of staff with varying years of service. One staff member described themselves as still relatively new after being at the school for thirteen years as they compared themselves to the number of teaching still at McAuley after thirty years. Teachers also commented that they've never thought about leaving due to the family nature of the school. This is impressive and not something regularly seen or heard across secondary education schools today.

Staff who had worked in other schools talked about how they would not leave McAuley as they have never experienced a positivity like they have here. Students talked about friends and family who attend other schools in the area and all commented that felt lucky to be at McAuley where they are listened to. Staff talk about how they all support one another and how this friendly culture has been created by the leaders at the school. The leaders set the tone for the inclusive, friendly ethos where the true measure of success is how staff and students feel they are respected and listened to. Parents talk highly of the school and describe the staff as 'supportive' and 'responsive.'

The alternative and inclusive provisions such as Emmaus and Nurture are examples of how the school caters for a range of students experiencing a range of needs. For one family, they describe the support they felt when their eldest child was having a difficult time with their mental health and staff at the school 'helped them get through it and come out the other side stronger.'

Parents express their gratitude to the staff at McAuley and commented that 'they will never forget what the staff at McAuley did for them.' The school has been steered by its leaders to ensure its stakeholders are truly valued at every stage of their journey. Their vision goes far beyond academic achievement and is one of an all-encompassing education service in which all children can flourish and succeed beyond the gates of the school. The curriculum at McAuley is a seven-year journey of high expectations across a broad range of subjects. The development of the way the leaders assess students' progress ensures opportunities to capture and celebrate all students and their achievements. The diverse needs of the students are not seen as a barrier to success but rather as an opportunity to unlock potential and open the door to success in the future. There really is something for everyone at McAuley.

#### GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

#### Pupil numbers

Still significant mobility continues and the school has seen a high number of in year admissions.

The school has seen positive admission numbers throughout the year ending 2024/25 with very few school places unfilled through Ks3 & Ks4.

Y7 admissions are significantly up for 2025/26 against figures for 2024/25. The school is running operationally full in many year groups and in 2 of 5 year groups we have waiting lists.

Post 16 numbers are very encouraging with the seven-year pledge and the marketing of the Graduate centre attracting large numbers internally and externally. Areas of real growth; Psychology, Sociology, Criminology, Economics, Business Studies. Current applications suggest the 6th form will grow to approximately 280 total students based on current Y12 into Y13 numbers and the number of Y11 into Y12 applications received.

#### Inspection

School received a full Section 5 inspection by Ofsted on the 6th December 2023. The outcome of this was The McAuley Catholic High School being given an overall effectiveness judgement of Good. The school was rated as good in all areas and is a fantastic and well-earned outcome.

### GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

### Year 11 Provisional Results Headlines 2025

Headlines	National Results (2024)	2023 Results	2024 Results	2025 Targets (Based on 2022 Estimates. Being reviewed Oct 24) %	2025 (Based on Jan 24 Estimates) %
%Basics 9-4	65%	66%	64%	77.5	55.4
%Basics 9-5	46%	45%	40%	48.1	34.6
%EBacc Entry	40%	16%	9%	3	7.8
%EBacc (standard)	25%	12%	6%	2.6	4.8
%EBacc (strong)	18%	10%	5%	1.7	4.3
EBacc APS	4.07	3.69	3.68	3.61	3.33
Attainment 8	45.92	44.89	45.56	46.92	42.50
Progress 8	-0.03	-0.03	-0.06	0.85	0.28
Progress 8 English	-0.04	0.12	-0.06	0.63	0.23
Progress 8 Maths	-0.03	-0.08	-0.18	0.67	-0.02
Progress 8 EBacc	-0.03	-0.18	-0.15	0.84	0.24
Value Added Humanities	0.00	0.03	-0.17	1.03	0.32
Value Added Language	0.00	0.97	2.16	1.00	2.30
Value Added Science	0.00	-0.12	-0.07	0.79	0.20
Progress 8 Open	-0.04	0.05	0.03	1.11	0.53
Progress 8					
Females (114)	0.09	-0.21	0.11	0.85	0.31
Males (117)	-0.15	0.20	-0.25	0.85	0.25
Disadvantaged (70)	-0.57	-0.57	-0.93	0.69	-0.19
SEND K (36)		-0.71	-0.87	0.65	-0.34
SEND EHCP (3)		-1.58	-0.87		
High Attainers (12)	0.02	-0.62	-0.56	0.66	-0.31
Middle Attainers (127)	-0.01	0.12	0.01	0.87	0.45
Low Attainers (35)	-0.14	0.00	0.19	0.86	-0.04

#### GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

Headlines	2024 Provisional	2024 Results	2025 Provisional
% Maths 9-4	85.0	70.0	58.9
% Maths 9-5	65.0	44.0	39.0
% Eng 9-4	85.0	78.0	73.6
% Eng 9-5	75.0	64.0	57.6

The 2024 GCSE results come from the Y11 cohort who were in Y6 during the first lockdown of the Covid-19 Pandemic. As nationally these pupils did not complete their last year in primary, and therefore did not complete Ks2 SATS, the overall national headline measures have been altered. There is also an expectation that their missing nearly a complete year of primary school did have a significant impact on future outcomes.

If we were still able to measure P8 the cohort would have demonstrated a good increase from their initial starting points when joining Y7. However, without this national metric, the new headline figures cannot be used to compare cohorts from previous years. The 2025 Y11 cohort based on CATS and NGRT tests were a weaker cohort than previous with only 11 high achievers in comparison to the previous year's 47.

### Ks5 Outcomes

	2024	2025
L3 Overall Average Grade	C-	C-
L3Vocational Average Point Score	29.86	28.17
A-Level Average Point Score	30.56	30.15
AAB 3 Facilitating Subjects	11.4%	10%

OFSTED GRADE – December 2023 Good in all areas SECTION 48 May - 2022 — Good with outstanding features

#### GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

#### Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

#### Going concern

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

In May of 2025 the Governing Body informed the Diocesan Education Board of the outcome of it's CMAT resolution vote. Governors voted to 'not join at this time'. The Diocesan Education Board has asked all Governing Bodies within the diocese which are yet to resolve to join the CMAT to do so before the end of the 2025 Autumn term. The governing body is still in dialogue over the ramifications of joining and assessing the potential benefits and issues related to joining. A schedule of meetings is underway to develop this dialogue in terms of the possible implications and impact on the school.

#### **Financial Review**

Most of the academy trust's income is obtained from the Department for Education (DfE) in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE/ESFA during the year ended 31 August 2025 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The academy trust also received grants for fixed assets from the DfE/ESFA. In accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended practice, 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (SORP 2019), such grants are shown under the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the fixed asset fund. The restricted fixed asset fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets concerned.

In addition, the financial statements show income for such items as school trips, school dinners, uniforms etc. This income is treated as "unrestricted funds".

During the year ended 31 August 2025, total expenditure of £11,559,000 exceeded recurrent grant funding from DfE/ESFA together with other incoming resources. The excess of income over expenditure for the year (excluding pension reserve movements, the restricted fixed asset fund and transfers between funds) was £68,000.

All of the expenditure shown in the Statement of Financial Activities is in furtherance of the academy's objectives.

At 31 August 2025 net book value of fixed assets was £3,356,000 and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 13 to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the students of the academy.

The provisions of Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102 have been applied in full in respect of LGPS pension scheme, resulting in a pension deficit of £- recognised on the Balance Sheet.

The academy held fund balances as at 31 August 2025 of £3,290,000 comprising of £3,286,000 of restricted-fixed asset fund, a pension deficit of £-, £2,000 restricted general funds and £2,000 of unrestricted funds. The balance of restricted general funds, excluding pension reserves, plus unrestricted funds as at 31 August 2025 was £4,000

#### GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

#### Reserves policy

The academy holds restricted and unrestricted funds (the attached financial statements detail these funds). Unrestricted funds are held to provide funds which can be designated to specific areas and to cover ongoing costs in relation to the running of the academy including catering provisions, school trips, uniform costs and fundraising for good causes.

The level of reserves is reviewed by the Governors regularly throughout the year. The minimum level of reserves for the ongoing needs of an academy is reviewed by the Governors on an annual basis. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The governors therefore consider it prudent to hold restricted and unrestricted reserves (total funds less the amount held in fixed assets) of £132,000.

This is considered sufficient to cover additional planned during year expenditure to meet changes to operational needs and contingencies for unexpected expenditure.

The academy's current level of restricted and unrestricted reserves are in surplus by £4,000 and are considered to be below the level of reserves required for the ongoing needs of the academy. This is due to expenditure in the year being higher than the income received and depleating the reserves held. The Governors have set a balanced budget for the academy for 2025/26 and expect to return to surplus budgets in 2026/27. Further diclosures regarding going concern, as well as future plans, are included at note 1.5 of the accounts.

#### Investment policy

The academy invests surplus funds through interest bearing current accounts. This policy maximises investment return whilst minimising risks to the principal sum.

#### Principal risks and uncertainties

The principal risks and uncertainties are centered on changes in the level of funding from the DfE/ESFA. In addition the academy is a member of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), which results in the recognition of a significant deficit on the academy Balance Sheet.

The Governors have assessed the major risks, to which the academy trust is exposed, in particular those relating specifically to teaching provision of facilities and other operational areas of the academy, and its finances. The Governors have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the school faces, especially in the operational areas (e.g. in relation to teaching, health and safety, bullying and school visits) and in relation to the control of finance. Where significant financial risk still remains they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover. The academy trust has an effective system of internal financial controls and this is explained in more detail in the Governance Statement.

The academy has fully implemented the requirements of the Safer Recruitment procedures and relevant staff have received training in this area in addition all staff receiving training on Child Protection/Safeguarding.

The academy is subject to a number of risks and uncertainties in common with other academies. The academy has in place procedures to identify and mitigate financial risks.

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.

#### GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

#### **Fundraising**

In the academic year 2024-25 the school began using My School Lottery as a fundraising partner. All relevant documentation was signed off by the Governing Body and the appropriate licensing obtained. A statutory return relating to small society lotteries is submitted monthly to the Local Authority

#### Plans for future periods

Governors have determined that the Strategic aims remain unchanged as do the strategic objectives covering the period up until and including the end of the Academic year 2024-25. At this point they will have been further reviewed.

The academy wishes to maintain a broad and balanced curriculum which is fully inclusive and appropriate to the needs of students of all abilities. The academy wishes to ensure equality of opportunity for all staff and students and is focused on promoting the needs of disadvantaged students.

To this end comprehensive strategic reviews of the curriculum and staffing structure are taking place to ensure the academy can continue to offer the appropriate curriculum. The age of the buildings are a concern and as such a comprehensive programme of maintenance and bid applications, for example to the Academy Condition Improvement Fund will continue.

#### Auditor

Insofar as the Governors are aware:

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

The Governors' Report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Governors, as the company directors, on 26 November 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

G Thickett Chair

#### GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

#### Scope of responsibility

As Governors, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that The McAuley Catholic High School 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 Governors, we have reviewed and taken account of the guidance in DfE's Governance Handbook and competency framework for governance.

The Board of Governors has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Headteacher, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between The McAuley Catholic High School and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Governors 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 Governors has formally met 6 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Governors was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
G Thickett (Chair)	6	6
R Shay (Vice Chair)	5	6
A Coddington	2	6
P Hall (appointed as Governor 17 September 2025)	0	0
Dr P J Hurley (resigned as Governor 18 June 2025)	3	5
V V Joseph	6	6
J Leitao	2	6
K Matheson (appointed as Governor 19 December 2024)	4	4
D Sheehan (appointed as Governor 6 August 2025)	0	0
A Tucker (appointed as Governor 25 March 2025)	2	3
J Tucker, Principal and Accounting Officer	6	6
S Wooliscroft	4	6

The McAuley Catholic high School maintains an up-to-date and complete register of interests. Every subcommittee and full board meeting includes a standing agenda item asking members to declare an interest. This is minuted.

#### Governance reviews:

Following good practice established during the period of enforced lockdown, the Headteacher, Chair of Governors and Vice Chair of Governors have continued to meet on a weekly or monthly basis to maintain an overview of the running of the school.

### GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

#### Governance (continued)

#### Finance and Premises Committee

The Finance and Premises Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Governors. Its purpose is to approve the academy revenue budget, receive periodic management reports showing performance against the agreed budget, set accounting policies, ensure compliance with Academies Accounts Direction appoint external auditors, and receive the annual audit report prior to presentation to the full Board of Governors.

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible	
A Coddington	4	7	
V V Joseph	6	7	
J Leitao	3	7	
R Shay	4	7	
G Thickett	7	7	

#### The audit and risk committee

The audit and risk committee is incorporated within the Finance and Premises committee

#### Review of Value for Money

As accounting officer, the Headteacher has responsibility for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The accounting officer understands that value for money refers to educational and wider societal outcomes, as well as estates safety and management, achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

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

Monitoring and evaluation — That is working within agreed and anticipated and received public expenditure. Monitored by monthly reports.

Benchmarking — to ensure value for money the Accounting Officer uses Kreston benchmarking reports. This has enabled us to have a productive workforce and an efficient deployment of resources

Contract oversight — Challenge fees and charges particularly to do with Service level agreements and contracts including Catering and Cleaning contracts as well as examinations fees.

Programme of continuous challenge — the use of internal audit.

Outcomes — Reference GCSE and A level results — reference Headteacher's Report...

#### GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

#### 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 policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in The McAuley Catholic High School for the year 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

#### Capacity to handle risk

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

#### The risk and control framework

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

- Comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Board of Governors
- Regular reviews by the Finance and Premises 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

The Board of Governors has decided to buy-in an internal audit service from BHP.

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

- Testing of payroll systems
- Testing of purchase systems
- · Testing of petty cash/ expenses procedures
- · Testing of income
- Testing of the accounting systems and management information produced
- Review of Governor appointments/resignations and declarations of interest
- Review of gifts and hospitality & honorarium/ex gratia payments
- Review of information technology strategy
- Review of fixed assets
- · Review of VAT and Corporation tax position

On a termly basis, the internal auditor reports to the Board of Governors through the Finance and Premises Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Governors financial responsibilities

The external auditors or reviewer have delivered their schedule of work as planned, and no material control issues have arisen as a result of their work.

### GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

### The risk and control framework (continued)

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 external auditors:
- the work of the internal auditors:
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process or the school resource management self-assessment tool;
- the work of the executive managers within the academy 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 Finance and Premises Committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Governors on 26 November 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

G Thickett

Chair of Governors

J Tucker

Accounting Officer

#### STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

As accounting officer of The McAuley Catholic High School 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 academy Board of Governors are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the academy trust, or material non-compliance with the framework of authorities.

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

J Tucker

Accounting Officer

Date: 26 November 2025

### STATEMENT OF GOVERNORS' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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

Company law requires the Governors to prepare financial statements for each financial . Under company law, the Governors 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 Governors are required to:

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

The Governors 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 Governors 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 DfE have been applied for the purposes intended.

The Governors 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 Governors on 26 November 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

G Thickett Chair

Hickey

### INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MCAULEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The McAuley Catholic High School (the 'academy') for the year ended 31 August 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by the Department for Education.

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

#### Basis for opinion

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

#### Material uncertainty related to going concern

We draw attention to note 1.5 in the financial statements, which indicates that the trust has reserves of £4,000 as at 31 August 2025 which are lower than the reserves policy of £132,000. The Governors have set a balance budget for the academy for 2025/26 and expect to return to surplus budgets in 2026/27. The cashflow forecasts show that all liabilities as a standalone academy are due to be paid as they fall due over the next 12 months. The Governors are also currently considering joining a multi academy trust during 2026. This creates an uncertainty about the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern. As stated in note 1.5, these events or conditions, along with the other matters as set forth in note 1.5, indicate that a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt on the academy's ability to continue as a going concern. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

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

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

# INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MCAULEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL (CONTINUED)

#### Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

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

#### Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the academy and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Governors' Report including the Strategic Report.

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

- 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 Governors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

#### Responsibilities of Governors

As explained more fully in the Statement of Governors' Responsibilities, the Governors (who are also the directors of the academy for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Governors 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 Governors 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 Governors either intend to liquidate the academy or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MCAULEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL (CONTINUED)

#### Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

We undertake the following procedures to identify and respond to these risks of non-compliance:

- Understanding the key legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Trust. We communicated
  identified laws and regulations throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of
  noncompliance throughout the audit. We determined the most significant of these to be the regulations set
  out by the DfE/ESFA. Our audit focuses on financial matters as set out in our regularity opinion. Other key
  laws and regulations included safeguarding, Health & Safety, GDPR and employment law
- Enquiry of trustees and management as to policies and procedures to ensure compliance and any known instances of non-compliance
- Review of board minutes and correspondence with regulators
- Enquiry of trustees and management as to areas of the financial statements susceptible to fraud and how these risks are managed
- Challenging management on key estimates, assumptions and judgements made in the preparation of the financial statements. These key areas of uncertainty are disclosed in the accounting policies
- Identifying and testing unusual journal entries, with a particular focus on manual journal entries.

Through these procedures, we did not become aware of actual or suspected non-compliance.

We planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards but owing to the inherent limitations of procedures required in these areas, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected a material misstatement in the accounts. The further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve concealment, collusion, forgery, misrepresentations, or override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <a href="https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities">www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities</a>. This description forms part of our Auditors' Report.

# INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MCAULEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL (CONTINUED)

#### Use of our report

This report is made solely to the academy's governors, 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 governors those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the academy and its governors, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Christopher Beaumont BA (Hons) BFP FCA DChA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of Clive Owen LLP

Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditors 140 Coniscliffe Road

Darlington Co Durham DL3 7RT

Date: 8 December 2025

## INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE MCAULEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 13 October 2025 and further to the requirements of the Department for Education (DfE) as included in the extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts 2024 to 2025, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether anything has come to our attention that would suggest, in all material respects, the expenditure disbursed and income received by The McAuley Catholic High School during the year 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 have not been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

### Respective responsibilities of The McAuley Catholic High School's Accounting Officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of The McAuley Catholic High School's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 30 April 2014 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2024, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

#### Approach

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- Review of governing body and committee minutes;
- Review of termly Internal Assurance reports;
- Completion of self assessment questionnaire by Accounting Officer;
- · Review documentation provided to Directors and Accounting Officer setting out responsibilities;
- Obtain formal letters of representation detailing the responsibilities of Directors;
- Review of payroll, purchases and expenses claims on a sample basis;
- Confirmation that the lines of delegation and limits set have been adhered to:

# INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE MCAULEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION (CONTINUED)

- · Evaluation of internal control procedures and reporting lines;
- · Review cash payments for unusual transactions:
- Review of credit card transactions:
- Review of registers of interests;
- · Review related party transactions;
- · Review of borrowing agreements;
- · Review of land and building transactions;
- · Review of potential and actual bad debts;
- Review an instance of gifts/hospitality to ensure in line with policy;
- · Review whistleblowing procedures;
- · Review pay policy and factors determining executive pay;

One w

- · Review of staff expenses;
- · Review other income to ensure is in line with funding agreement;
- · Review governance structure and number of meetings held; and
- · Review whether there is a risk register in place.

#### Conclusion

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

Clive Owen LLP Reporting Accountant

140 Coniscliffe Road Darlington

Co Durham DL3 7RT

Date: 8 December 2025

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

				Destricted		
	Note	Unrestricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2024 £000
	Note	£000	£000	2000	2000	2000
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	4	-	30	34	1,250
Other trading activities		86	-	-	86	107
Investments	6	20	~	-	20	18
Charitable activities		482	10,756	-	11,238	10,584
Total income		592	10,756	30	11,378	11,959
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities		597	10,672	290	11,559	10,992
Total expenditure		597	10,672	290	11,559	10,992
Net (expenditure)/incom						
е		(5)	84	(260)	(181)	967
Transfers between funds	18	-	(11)	11		-
Net movement in funds before other recognised	ř.,					
gains/(losses)		(5)	73	(249)	(181)	967
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit						
pension schemes	26	-	1,393	-	1,393	295
Other losses		-	(1,103)	-	(1,103)	
Net movement in funds	59	(5)	363	(249)	109	1,262
Reconciliation of funds:			-			
Total funds brought forward		7	(361)	3,535	3,181	1,919
Net movement in funds		(5)	363	(249)	109	1,262
Total funds carried forward	1.0	2	2	3,286	3,290	3,181

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

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

The notes on pages 34 to 61 form part of these financial statements.

### THE MCAULEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

# (A Company Limited by Guarantee) REGISTERED NUMBER: 08936511

### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025

	Note		2025 £000		2024 £000
Fixed assets	11010				1
Tangible assets	13		3,356		2,961
		-5.	3,356		2,961
Current assets			0,000		
Stocks	14	18		11	
Debtors	15	418		303	
Cash at bank and in hand		263		931	
	_	699		1,245	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(661)		(554)	
Net current assets	_		38		691
Total assets less current liabilities			3,394	4 ± x	3,652
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	17		(104)		(105)
Net assets excluding pension asset / liability			3,290		3,547
Defined benefit pension scheme asset / liability	26				(366)
Net Assets (Liabilities) including pension scheme liabilities		-	3,290	-	3,181
		:		-	

#### THE MCAULEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

(A Company Limited by Guarantee) REGISTERED NUMBER: 08936511

### BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED) AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025

			2025		2024
Funds of the academy	Note		£000		£000
Restricted funds:					
Fixed asset funds	18	3,286		3,535	
Restricted income funds	18	2		5	
Restricted funds excluding pension asset	18	3,288	-	3,540	
Pension reserve	18			(366)	
Total restricted funds	18		3,288		3,174
Unrestricted income funds	18		2		7
Total funds			3,290	-	3,181
		_			

The financial statements on pages 29 to 61 were approved by the Governors, and authorised for issue on 26 November 2025 and are signed on their behalf, by:

G Thickett Chair

### STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

	Note	2025 £000	2024 £000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash used in operating activities	20	(33)	(566)
Cash flows from investing activities	22	(635)	518
Cash flows from financing activities	21		105
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(668)	57
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		931	874
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	23, 24	263	931

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

#### 1. Accounting policies

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

#### 1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

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

The McAuley Catholic High School meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

#### 1.2 Fund accounting

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

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

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

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

#### 1.3 Income

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

#### Grants

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

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

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

#### Donations

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

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### 1. Accounting policies (continued)

#### 1.3 Income (continued)

#### Other income

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

### 1.4 Expenditure

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

#### Charitable activities

Expenditure on charitable activities are costs incurred on the academy educational operations, including support costs and those costs relating to the governance of the academy appointed to charitable activities.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

### 1.5 Going concern

The Governors assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to the events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the academy trust to continue as a going concern. The Governors make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements. The trust has reserves of £4,000 as at 31 August 2025 which is lower than the reserves policy. The Governors have set a balance budget for the academy for 2025/26 and expect to return to surplus budgets in 2026/27. The cashflow forecasts show that all liabilities as a standalone academy are due to be paid as they fall due over the next 12 months.

The Governors are also currently considering joining a multi academy trust during 2026. This creates an uncertainty about the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern. Should this not go ahead given the work undertaken on the finance plans, the Governors have no concerns over the standalone trust's ability to continue to operate as a going concern and for that reason the financial statements continue to be prepared on a going concern basis.

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### 1. Accounting policies (continued)

### 1.6 Tangible fixed assets

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

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the Government or from the private sector, they are included in the Balance Sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. Where there are specific conditions attached to the funding 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 the rates calculated to write off the cost of these assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following basis:

Assets under construction are not depreciated. Once completed and in use, they are recategorised as property and depreciated as per below.

Long-term leasehold

- 25 years

improvements

Leasehold land - 125 years
Fixtures and fittings - 7 years
Computer equipment - 3 years

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

### 1.7 Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

#### 1.8 Interest receivable

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

### 1.9 Taxation

The academy 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 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.

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### 1. Accounting policies (continued)

#### 1.10 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

#### 1.11 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

#### 1.12 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

### 1.13 Liabilities and provisions

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 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 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.

### 1.14 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 15. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in notes 16 and 17. 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.

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### Accounting policies (continued)

### 1.15 Pensions

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

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

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

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

### 1.16 Agency arrangements

The academy trust acts as an agent in distributing 16-19 bursary funds from ESFA. Payments received from ESFA and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the statement of financial activities as the trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The funds received and paid and any balances held are disclosed in note 29.

### 2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

The academy 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.

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### 2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment (continued)

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 26, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2025. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability. The actuary has made assumptions to estimate the liability associated with McCloud Sargeant (McCloud) and GMP Indexation and Equalisation (GMP).

### Critical areas of judgment:

Depreciation – Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its residual value, over the economic life of that asset. An estimate of the useful life of assets is detailed in the depreciation accounting policy. The value of depreciation charge during the year was £290,000.

#### Goodwin

The case related to male spouse or civil partner of a female member is treated in the same way as a same-sex spouse or civil partner. Survivor benefits will be calculated using service from 1 April 1972, or 6 April 1978 if the marriage or civil partnership took place after the last day of pensionable service. This change will apply for deaths in respect of female members which occurred from 5 December 2005, which is the date that same-sex civil partnerships were introduced. This case was brought against the Teachers' Pension Scheme. Actuaries have estimated that the impact of Goodwin indexation to be less than 0.1% of total liabilities. Based on this estimate it would increase liabilities by £7,000 which has been assessed to be immaterial to the financial statements.

### Critical areas of judgement:

Land – Land is held under a 125 year lease from Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council. These assets are included on the balance sheet of the academy due to the significant risks and rewards of ownership belonging to the academy, the lease term being the major part of the economic life of the assets and the assets being of such a specialised nature that only the academy could use them without major modification.

The academy buildings are owned by the Institute of Our Lady of Mercy and under licence from the Diocese of Hallam. The academy trust occupies the buildings under a mere licence. The licence delegates aspects of the management of the buildings to the academy trust for the time being, but does not vest any rights over the buildings to the academy trust. The Diocese of Hallam has given an undertaking to the Secretary of State that they will not give academy trust less than two years notice to terminate the occupation of the buildings. Having considered the factual matrix under which the academy trust is occupying the buildings the Directors have concluded that the value of the buildings occupied by the academy trust at the date of conversion to an academy will not be recognised on the balance sheet of the academy trust. In addition, whilst the occupation constitutes a donation in kind to the academy trust, the Trustees consider that the cost of obtaining a valuation for such a donation outweighs the expense and therefore no such donation and related expense are included in the Statement of Financial Activities. Additions since conversion funded by grant bids or from GAG have been capitalised as leasehold improvements and written off over their economic life.

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

## 3. Income from donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2024 £000
Donations	4		4	3
Capital Grants		30	30	1,247
	4	30	34	1,250
Total 2024	3	1,247	1,250	

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

## 4. Funding for the academy's educational operations

Academy's educational operations	Unrestricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2024 £000
DfE grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	7,833	7,833	7,701
Other DfE/ESFA grants				
16-19 Core Funding	-	1,488	1,488	1,274
Pupil Premium		372	372	342
Rates		31	31	32
Teachers' pay grant	-	130	130	132
Teachers' pension grant	-	253	253	94
Other DfE Group grants	-	74	74	193
Mainstream grants	-	331	331	262
	-	10,512	10,512	10,030
Other Government grants				
SEN	-	79	79	74
Local Authority grants	-	14	14	8
Other Government grants	-	74	74	-
	.=:	167	167	82
Other income from the academy's academy's educational operations	482	77	559	472
	482	10,756	11,238	10,584
	482	10,756	11,238	10,584
Total 2024	422	10,162	10,584	

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

# 5. Income from other trading activities

				Unrestricted funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2024 £000
	Income from facilities and ser	vices		41	41	51
	Rental and lettings income	Video		38	38	21
	Other			7	7	35
				Out Int		
				86	86	107
	- 17			107	107	
	Total 2024			=======================================	107	
6.	Investment income					
				Unrestricted funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2024 £000
	Bank Interest			20	20	18
7.	Expenditure					
		Staff Costs 2025 £000	Premises 2025 £000	Other 2025 £000	Total 2025 £000	Total 2024 £000
	Academy's educational operations:					
	Direct costs	8,044	44.4	671	8,715	8,243
	Allocated support costs	967	901	976	2,844	2,749
		9,011	901	1,647	11,559	10,992
	Total 2024	8,559	667	1,766	10,992	

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

## 7. Expenditure (continued)

In 2025, of the total expenditure, £597,000 (2024: £659,000) was to unrestricted funds and £10,962,000 (2024: £10,333,000) was was to restricted funds.

There were no individual transactions over £5,000 for:

Compensation payments Gifts made by the trust Fixed asset losses Stock losses Cash losses Unrecoverable debts

There were no ex-gratia payments in the year.

### 8. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2025 £000	Support costs 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2024 £000
Academy's educational operations	8,715	2,844	11,559	10,992
Total 2024	8,243	2,749	10,992	

## Analysis of direct costs

	Total	Total
	funds	funds
	2025	2024
	0003	£000
Staff costs	8,044	7,554
Educational supplies	354	297
Examination fees	186	190
Staff development	10	9
Technology costs	29	71
Educational consultancy	43	37
Staff expenses	2	3
Transport	18	80
Other costs	29	2
	8,715	8,243

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

# 8. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

## Analysis of support costs

9.

	Total funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2024 £000
Net interest on pension scheme	16	35
Staff costs	967	1,005
Depreciation	290	279
Technology costs	114	121
Staff expenses	10	14
Maintenance of premises	107	83
Cleaning	316	297
Other premises costs	85	55
Energy	197	161
Rent & rates	31	32
Insurance	39	37
Operating lease rentals	44	
Catering	441	450
Security		1
Other costs	164	158
Governance costs	23	21
	2,844	2,749
Net (expenditure)/income		
Net (expenditure)/income for the year includes:		
	2025 £000	2024 £000
Operating lease rentals	44	29
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	290	279
Fees paid to auditors for:		
- audit	15	15
- other services	1	1

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### 10. Staff

### a. Staff costs and employee benefits

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Wages and salaries	6,470	6,298
Social security costs	764	680
Pension costs	1,651	1,500
	8,885	8,478
Supply staff costs	126	81
	9,011	8,559

Included in operating costs of defined benefit pension schemes is a debit of -£92,000 (2024: -£81,000) in respect of movements in the LGPS pension deficit.

### b. Non-statutory/non-contractual staff severance payments

No payments were made during the year.

### c. Staff numbers

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

	2025 No.	2024 No.
Teachers	95	98
Administration and support	55	59
Management	9	10
	159	167

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### 10. Staff (continued)

### d. Higher paid staff

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

	2025 No.	2024 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	8	2
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	6	6
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	2	
In the band £100,001 - £110,000	1	1

### e. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy comprise the Governors and the Senior Leadership Team as listed on page 2. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy was £1,101,000 (2024: £1,157,000).

### 11. Governors' remuneration and expenses

One or more Governors has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the academy. The principal and other staff Governors 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 Governors' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

		2025	2024
		£000	£000
J Tucker, Headteacher and Accounting Officer	Remuneration	105 - 110	100 - 105
	Pension contributions	30 - 35	25 - 30
M Viney	Remuneration		30 - 35
	Pension contributions		5 - 10
	Other benefits		0 - 5
S Wolliscroft	Remuneration	55 - 60	50 - 55
	Pension contributions	15 - 20	10 - 15

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

### 12. Governors' and Officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the academy has purchased insurance to protect Governors and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £5,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2025 was £37,000 (2024 - £33,000). The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

## 13. Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold improvements £000	Assets under construction £000	Fixtures and fittings £000	Computer equipment £000	Total £000
Cost or valuation					
At 1 September 2024	3,369	20	274	554	4,217
Additions	662	-	2	21	685
Transfers between classes	20	(20)		3 <del>5</del> .	
At 31 August 2025	4,051		276	575	4,902
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2024	728	-	221	307	1,256
Charge for the year	111	<b>7</b>	16	163	290
At 31 August 2025	839		237	470	1,546
Net book value					
At 31 August 2025	3,212		39	105	3,356
At 31 August 2024	2,641	20	53	247	2,961

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

## 14. Stocks

		2025 £000	2024 £000
	Stationery and educational materials	18	11
		THE RELEASE OF THE PARTY OF THE	
15.	Debtors		
		2025	2024
		£000	£000
	Trade debtors	3	9
	Other Debtors	1	
	Prepayments and accrued income	402	291
	VAT recoverable	12	3
		418	303
16.	Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year		
		2025 £000	2024 £000
	Other loans		2000
	Trade creditors	1	-
	Other taxation and social security	172	153
	Other creditors	208	186
	Accruals and deferred income	274	209
		661	554
		-	
		2025 £000	2024 £000
	Deferred income		
	Deferred income at 1 September 2024	39	13
	Resources deferred during the year	38	39
	Amounts released from previous periods	(39)	(13)
	Deferred income at 31 August 2023	38	39

At the balance sheet date the academy trust was holding funds of £38,000 (2024: £39,000) received in advance for school trips occuring in 2025/26 and for unspent 16-19 Bursary monies.

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

## 17. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Other loans	104	105

Included in other creditors falling due after more than one year is a CIF loan. This is expected to repaid over 10 years from GAG, final term details have not yet been received.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### 18. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 September 2024 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers in/out £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	Balance at 31 August 2025 £000
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds	7	592	(597)		u nedig	2
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	5	7,833	(7,825)	(11)		2
Pupil Premium	-	372	(372)	_	-	
Other DfE / ESFA	-	820	(820)			
SEN		79	(79)			
Other Government						
Grants		88	(88)			
Other Income	100	76	(76)			
16-19 funding Pension	-	1,488	(1,488)		104	
reserve	(366)		76		290	
	(361)	10,756	(10,672)	(11)	290	2
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Devolved Formula Capital	379	30	(47)			362
Academies Capital Maintenance						
Fund	308	-	(20)			288
Capital expenditure from GAG	397		(60)	11		348
Condition Improvement	4.500					
Fund Local Authority	1,500 9		(50)			1,450
Assets inherited	9	_	(5)			4
on conversion Connect the	167		(1)		-	166
Classroom	150	8.5	(107)	748 · >		43

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

## 18. Statement of funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 September 2024 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers in/out £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	Balance at 31 August 2025 £000
Donated assets	625	-	-	The state of		625
	3,535	30	(290)	11	-	3,286
Total Restricted funds	3,174	10,786	(10,962)		290	3,288
Total funds	3,181	11,378	(11,559)	An age	290	3,290

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

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### 18. Statement of funds (continued)

The General Annual Grant (GAG) must be used for the normal running of the academy including salaries and related costs, overheads, repairs and maintenance, and insurance.

Pupil Premium is additional funding to be spent as the school sees fit to support deprived students.

Other DfE/ESFA Grants also includes the PE and sport premium grant, rates relief, teachers' pay grant and teachers' pension grant.

Other Government grants include funding for pupils with Special Educational Needs and other income from the local authority.

The pension reserves is the liability due to the deficit on the Local Government Pension Scheme. Further details are shown in note 26.

The restricted fixed asset funds represent monies received to purchase fixed assets. Depreciation is charged against each fund over the useful economic life of the associated assets.

Unrestricted funds include the income from uniform sales, school trips and catering with the relevant costs allocated accordingly.

A transfer of £11,000 (2024: £73,000) has been made to capital expenditure from GAG to reflect those items included within fixed assets which have been purchased using GAG monies.

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

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

## 18. Statement of funds (continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers in/out £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	Balance at 31 August 2024 £000
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds	116	550	(659)	9-1		7
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	16	8,975	(8,913)	(73)	_	5
Pupil Premium		342	(342)	157 .	-	L
Other DfE / ESFA		713	(713)		1 1 2	-
SEN		74	(74)	-	-	-
Other Government Grants		8	(8)			
Other Income	-	50	(50)	a description	a la la ju	=
Pension			(00)			
reserve	(707)	- 4	46		295	(366)
	(691)	10,162	(10,054)	(73)	295	(361)
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Devolved						
Formula Capital	394	29	(44)	-	-	379
Academies Capital Maintenance						
Fund	328	-	(20)	-	-	308
Capital expenditure from GAG	381		(57)	73		397
Condition Improvement Fund	954	593	(47)			1,500
Local Authority	13	-	(4)	-		9
Assets inherited on conversion		-	(1)		-	167

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

## 18. Statement of funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers in/out £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	Balance at 31 August 2024 £000
Connect the Classroom	256		(106)			150
Donated assets		625	-			625
	2,494	1,247	(279)	73	-	3,535
Total Restricted	7-77					
funds	1,803	11,409	(10,333)	<i>26</i> • 1	295	3,174
Total funds	1,919	11,959	(10,992)		295	3,181

## 19. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

			Restricted	
	Unrestricted	Restricted	fixed asset	Total
	funds	funds	funds	funds
	2025	2025	2025	2025
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Tangible fixed assets	-		3,356	3,356
Current assets	33	531	135	699
Creditors due within one year	(31)	(529)	(101)	(661)
Creditors due in more than one year	-		(104)	(104)
Total	2	2	3,286	3,290

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

## 19. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Allalysis of flet assets between fullus - prior	year			
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Restricted fixed asset funds	Total funds
		2024	2024	2024	2024
		£000	£000	£000	£000
	Tangible fixed assets	1120	kima jir	2,961	2,961
	Current assets	7	559	679	1,245
	Creditors due within one year		(554)	-	(554)
	Creditors due in more than one year	1721	11-10	(105)	(105)
	Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(366)	-	(366)
	Total	7	(361)	3,535	3,181
20.	Reconciliation of net (expenditure)/income to	net cash flow	w from operati	ng activities	
				2025	2024
				£000	£000
	Net (expenditure)/income for the year (as pactivities)	er Statement	of Financial	(181)	967
	Adjustments for:				
	Depreciation			290	279
	Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	е		(30)	(1,247)
	Interest receivable			(20)	(18)
	Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contri	butions payabl	е	(92)	(81)
	Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost			16	35
	Increase in stocks			(7)	(11)
	Increase/Decrease in debtors			(115)	(135)
	Increase/(decrease) in creditors			106	(355)
	Net cash used in operating activities			(33)	(566)
21.	Cash flows from financing activities				
				2025 £000	2024 £000
	Cash inflows from new borrowing				105
	Net cash provided by financing activities				105

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

## 22. Cash flows from investing activities

				2025 £000	
	Dividends, interest and rents from investmen	ts		20	
	Purchase of tangible fixed assets			(685	(747)
	Capital grants from DfE Group			30	1,247
	Net cash (used in)/provided by investing a	activities		(635	518
23.	Analysis of cash and cash equivalents				
				2025 £000	
	Cash in hand and at bank			263	931
	Total cash and cash equivalents			263	931
24.	Analysis of changes in net debt				
		At 1			
		September 2024 £000	Cash flows £000	CIF Loan transfer £000	At 31 August 2025 £000
	Cash at bank and in hand	931	(668)	118 25	263
	Debt due within 1 year	74 - 2	EST NO.	(1)	(1)
	Debt due after 1 year	(105)		1	(104)
		826	(668)	-	158
25.	Capital commitments				
				2025 £000	
	Contracted for but not provided in these f	inancial stateme	ents		
	Purchase, construction or development of pro-	operty		MESU SE	678

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

#### 26. Pension commitments

The academy'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 South Yorkshire Pension Scheme. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

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

Contributions amounting to £192,000 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2025 (2024 - £189,000) and are included within creditors.

#### **Teachers' Pension Scheme**

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

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

#### Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

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

The result of this valuation was implemented on 01 April 2024. The next valuation is due to be implemented on 01 April 2027.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £1,387,000 (2024 - £1,222,000).

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

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### 26. Pension commitments (continued)

#### **Local Government Pension Scheme**

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2025 was £443,000 (2024 - £451,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £359,000 (2024 - £366,000) and employees' contributions totalled £84,000 (2024 - £85,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 26.6% per cent for employers and 5.5% - 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 academy closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013 and on 21 July 2022, the Department for Education reaffirmed its commitment to the guarantee, with a parliamentary minute published on GOV.UK.

### Principal actuarial assumptions

	2025	2024
Rate of increase in salaries	3.30	3.25
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.70	2.65
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	6.05	5.00
Inflation assumption (CPI)	3.2	9.2

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

	2025 Years	2024 Years
Retiring today		, 50, 5
Males	20.7	20.5
Females	23.6	23.6
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	21.5	21.3
Females	25.0	25.0
Sensitivity analysis		
	2025 £000	2024 £000
Discount rate +0.1%	(123)	(147)
Discount rate -0.1%	123	147
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	240	270
Mortality assumption - 1 year decrease	(240)	(270)
CPI rate +0.1%	118	140
CPI rate -0.1%	(118)	(140)

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

## 26. Pension commitments (continued)

## Share of scheme assets

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

	At 31	August 2025 £000	At 31 August 2024 £000
Equities		4,972	4,275
Government bonds		1,350	1,340
Property		710	638
Cash and other liquid assets		71	128
Total market value of assets		7,103	6,381
The actual return on scheme assets was £401,000	) (2024 - £541,000).		
The amounts recognised in the Statement of Finan	ncial Activities are as follows:		
		2025	2024
		£000	£000
Current service cost		(267)	(285)
Interest income		327	295
Interest cost		(343)	(330)
Total amount recognised in the Statement of F	inancial Activities	(283)	(320)
Changes in the present value of the defined benefit	it obligations were as follows:		
		2025 £000	2024 £000
At 1 September		6,747	6,215
Current service cost		267	285
Interest cost		343	330
Employee contributions		84	85
Actuarial gains		(1,319)	(49)
Benefits paid		(122)	(119)

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

## 26. Pension commitments (continued)

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

	2025 £000	2024 £000
At 1 September	6,381	5,508
Interest income	327	295
Actuarial gains	74	246
Employer contributions	359	366
Employee contributions	84	85
Benefits paid	(122)	(119)
At 31 August	7,103	6,381

## 27. Operating lease commitments

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

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Amounts payable:		
Within 1 year	81	14
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	299	14
Later than 5 years	108	
Total	488	28

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### 28. Related party transactions

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

#### The Diocese of Hallam - a Member of the academy.

The academy contributed to the Diocese's Education Service totalling £45,000 (2024: £38,000). There were no amounts outstanding at 31 August 2025 (2024: £Nil).

In entering in to the transactions the academy trust has complied with the requirements of the ESFA Academies Financial Handbook. No statement of assurance is required as services that can only be delivered by the Diocese, which provide essential functions fundamental to the religious character and ethos of the academy, are deemed as meeting the "at cost" requirement.

### PRODEO Ltd - Spouse of Senior Leadership team Member.

The academy made payments for ICT Software Service totalling £2,500 (2024: £2,495). There were no amounts outstanding at 31 August 2025 (2024: £Nil).

### NEIL WOOLISCROFT - Spouse of Staff Governor

The academy paid for bicycle servicing to be carried out by the spouse of a Governor totalling £255 (2024: £274). There were no amounts outstanding at 31 August 2025 (2024: £Nil).

### 29. Agency arrangements

The academy distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for ESFA. In the accounting period ending 31 August 2025 the academy received £46,000 (2024: £49,000) and disbursed £39,000 (2024: £46,000) from the fund. An amount of £7,000 (2024: £3,000) is included in deferred income relating to undistributed funds that is repayable to ESFA.