Company Registration Number: 14895735 (England & Wales)

ONE (OWL NORTH EAST) TRUST

(A company limited by guarantee)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

ONE (OWL NORTH EAST) TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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ONE (OWL NORTH EAST) TRUST
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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members	Jill Brown Scott Brown Robert Morgan (resigned 7 September 2025) Matthew Paul Helen Richardson (appointed 19 September 2025)
Trustees	Helen Richardson, Chair Scott Archibald Phil Clark (appointed 20 March 2025) Jeanette Dickson Vikki Dixon Fergus Hegarty Karen Hudson Colin Lofthouse Helen Simpson John Smith Julie Stewart (resigned 14 July 2025)
Company registered number	14895735
Company name	ONE (Owl North East) Trust
Principal and registered office	Throckley Primary School Hexham Road Newcastle Upon Tyne Tyne & Wear NE15 9DY
Company secretary	Emma Hampton
Executive Team	Julie Stuart, Chief Executive Officer Victoria Hanlon, Chief Financial Officer
Independent auditors	Clive Owen LLP Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors 140 Coniscliffe Road Darlington County Durham DL3 7RT
Bankers	Lloyds Bank plc PO Box 1000 BX1 1LT
Solicitors	Muckle LLP Time Central 32 Gallowgate Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4BF

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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

The ONE (Owl North East) Trust is a multi-academy trust in the North East of England. The Trust was established on 1st January 2024 with its main aim being to advance the education of the pupils and school communities it serves. ONE Trust consists of eight primary schools located in the outer west of the city of Newcastle upon Tyne. It is responsible for the education of over two thousand four hundred pupils between the ages of 2 and 11. The school catchments cover an area of ten square miles that is bordered by the tidal stretches of the River Tyne, the Northumberland County boundary and the main conurbation of the City of Newcastle.

The Board of ONE (Owl North East) Trust is its own admissions authority and decides the admissions arrangements for the schools within the trust. All ONE Trust schools align with Newcastle City Council admission policy.

The academy trust operates 8 primary academies in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The academies had a roll of 2,269 pupils in the Summer 2025 school census.

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The academy trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy trust. The Trustees of ONE (Owl North East) Trust are also the Directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company operates as ONE (Owl North East) Trust.

Details of the Trustees who served during the year, and to the date these accounts are approved are included in the Reference and administrative details on page 1.

Members' liability

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

Trustees' indemnities

The academy trust has purchased RPA insurance to protect Trustees from claims arising against negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy trust business.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

The members appoint a minimum of 9 Trustees. The term of office for any Trustee shall be a maximum of 4 and a minimum of 2 years, save that this time limit shall not apply to the Principal or any post help ex-officio. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Trustee, any Trustee may be re-appointed or re-elected.

Structure, Governance and Management (continued)

Policies adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

The training and induction provided for new Trustees depends on their existing experience. Where necessary induction and training is provided on charity, educational, legal and financial matters. All new Trustees are given the chance to meet with local governors, staff and students during their monitoring activities. All Trustees are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as Trustees. Induction is tailored specifically to the individual.

Organisational structure

During the year the academy trust continued to operate a unified management structure. The structure consists of 4 levels: The Trustees, the Executive Group, the Senior Leadership Team and the Middle Management Team.

The aim of the management structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels.

The Trustees delegate decisions and responsibilities to the relevant committees as per the Scheme of Delegation.

The Local Governing Body is a committee of the Trust Board with delegated responsibilities and specific terms of reference.

The Executive Group consists of the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer.

The Senior Leadership Team includes the Head Teachers, Deputy Head Teachers and Assistant Head Teachers of each of the schools within the Trust and make the school level operational decisions.

Structure, Governance and Management (continued)

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

- **Trust Board:** The Trust Board has determined that that the process for making decisions on the pay of staff shall be delegated to a Remuneration Committee. There shall be a quorum of three, non-employee governors who will carry out determinations of pay. The committee shall decide the pay of all staff in the school by the effective application of the policy in all circumstances, including upon appointment, when the staffing structure changes and in conducting the annual salary review for teachers. For the head teacher's salary review, the 2 or 3 local governors and CEO appointed to undertake the head's appraisal will make a recommendation to the Committee about performance pay, where the head is eligible, following advice from the Chief Executive Officer and Achievement Partner/External Adviser.

- **Head Teacher:** The head teacher shall be an adviser to the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee but shall withdraw from any discussion in relation to their own pay.

- **Appraisers:** The Head Teacher is responsible for the appraisal of all teaching staff and the recommendation regarding performance pay decisions or otherwise as reflected in the appraisal policy of the school. The Head Teacher may delegate responsibility for the appraisal of teaching staff but shall remain responsible for any recommendation for pay progression.

- **Employee representatives**: Where an employee appeals against an individual pay decision, they can be accompanied to the hearing by a fellow worker or trade union representative. All trade union officials, regardless of whether the union is recognised, may represent their members individually.

- **Employee Services:** Where the school has a Service Level Agreement/Service Contract with Employee Services, the statutory notification of pay decisions to teachers will be carried out on behalf of the school as part of this agreement.

Structure, Governance and Management (continued)

Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

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

Percentage of time spent on facility time

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

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

	£000	
Total cost of facility time	-	
Total pay bill	-	
Percentage of total pay bill spent on facility time	-	%

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	-	%

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

The Trust is not part of any wider network or federation.

Structure, Governance and Management (continued)

Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)

The Trustee Board will work to set the vision and strategy for ONE Trust, whilst holding leaders to account for the operations and performance, ensuring that ONE Trust meets its obligations to all stakeholders. The Trustee Board will oversee the involvement of parents and carers, schools, local governing board members and the outer west community in support of their engagement around this plan.

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

- Equal opportunities policy
- Volunteers' 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.

Full details of these policies are available from the Academy's offices.

Objectives and activities

The Trustee Board will work to set the vision and strategy for ONE Trust, whilst holding leaders to account for the operations and performance, ensuring that ONE Trust meets its obligations to all stakeholders. The Trustee Board will oversee the involvement of parents and carers, schools, local governing board members and the outer west community in support of their engagement around this plan.

The purpose of all objectives and activities is to encourage further collaboration and engagement when working in support of the shared strategy. It is intended that the ONE Trust Strategic Business Plan supports the work of academy staff, leadership teams, governing board members and those responsible for leading the MAT. As always, this begins with the values, ethos, and a clear focus upon outcomes for pupils across the community of schools. The Trust is therefore advantaged by a well-honed common vision, the focus over time upon improvement priorities but also that the individual schools possess their own individuality as educational establishments.

This strategic plan for ONE Trust therefore endeavours to achieve a balance between embedding values and strategy across the MAT, as well as being responsive to the needs of individual schools. It also encourages Local Governing Bodies (LGBs) to involve the local tier of governance in a meaningful way and to help shape the vision and strategy for the MAT. Involvement will also inform their own strategic thinking and decision-making. In doing so, they will make a positive contribution to the checks and balances of MAT governance as well as adding more diverse views to the richness of discussion and challenge.

Objects and aims

ONE Trust Mission and Vision

In setting and championing the vision, ethos, and strategy, it is useful to be reminded of our overriding mission and the principles underpinning all governance considerations. Across all our layers of ONE Trust leadership, the collective mission, strapline and vision statement:

Objectives and activities (continued)

ONE Trust, One Vision, Ambition for All

'To build a shared learning community in which children, young people, staff and parents discover their talents, realise their potential, and develop a passion for learning that endures throughout their lives.'

The role of the Trustee Board, its committees, and Local Governing Bodies (LGBs) are key to this vision and in defining and implementing strategy to achieve the key aims.

Aims

Each individual school (supported by their Local Governing Body) retains its own ethos and characteristics, which are respected as part of their unique contribution to achieve the following key aims:

- Cutting-edge school improvement system
- High quality, inclusive education
- Strategic and expert governance
- Effective and efficient operations
- Workforce development and well-being

These aims will be achieved by holding the leaders of schools and the Trust to account. This is the foundation of excellence in education. All stakeholders need to be assured that the Trustee Board is governing in a highly effective manner. Those responsible for governance will work together to bring their skills and experience to their roles. They will challenge and support expertly, to hold the workforce to account to achieve improved outcomes for all pupils across the Trust.

The overarching strategic goals have been identified to link and support the 'Keeping APACE' priority aims. Self-evaluation over a number of years has helped the schools to establish where priorities lie and identify a limited number that impact most on achieving vision. 'APACE' priorities have served the schools and community well during foundation trust status and have therefore been revised in-line with long term goal setting and MAT status. Utilising the revised 'APACE' objectives will support a familiar, tried and tested action planning process - making progress and impact easier to monitor and evaluate.

Priority 1: Advancing Education
Priority 2: Purposeful Collaboration
Priority 3: Achievement for All
Priority 4: Community Engagement
Priority 5: Expert Guidance

Objectives and activities (continued)

Objectives, strategies and activities

Trust Quality Descriptions

The draft 'Trust Quality Descriptions' published by the DfE provide some clear aims for the ONE Trust. In compiling the strategy, the expectations for each of the key five pillars were considered, identified by the DfE as those apparent within 'strong' trusts. By focusing on these descriptions in our planning over the coming year, ONE Trust leaders will gain valuable insights into our performance to identify improvement and capacity-building initiatives. The five pillars include:

1. **High Quality and Inclusive Education:** This pillar covers aspects such as culture, curriculum, student outcomes, accessibility, pastoral support, enrichment, behaviour and attendance, destinations, and collaboration.
2. **School Improvement:** This pillar emphasises the importance of a culture of continuous improvement, school improvement models, transformation, and system-led improvement.
3. **Workforce:** This pillar addresses topics such as culture, workload, retention, working environment, developing new and early career teachers, continuing professional development, collaboration, line management and career progression, and equality, diversity, and inclusion.
4. **Finance and Operations:** This pillar focuses on themes such as culture, financial strategy, resource allocation, capital strategy, reserves, and financial information management.
5. **Governance and Leadership:** This pillar covers aspects such as culture, governance of the trust, and the roles and responsibilities of the board, executive leadership team and accounting officer.

Public benefit

The academy trust's aims and achievements are set out within this report and have been undertaken to further its charitable purposes for the public benefit. The Trustees 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 Trustees have considered this guidance in deciding what activities the academy trust should undertake.

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

Progress against priority areas

1. **High-quality and inclusive education**

All schools in the Trust have an Ofsted rating of Good and one school which received a rating of Outstanding across all areas in the January 2025 inspection.

Inclusion has been a high priority for the Trust and schools next academic year. Newcastle City Council have recently produced their own SEND and Inclusion strategy, and we have worked with all agencies to ensure that the ONE Trust school improvement offer gives focus and depth to inclusion as a key element of the plan. The Trust's SEND network group has been a crucial sounding board for our work in monitoring outcomes.

Pupil outcomes

The Performance and Curriculum committee have looked at data from the previous two years alongside attainment from July 2025. They have also used the IDSR and the Local Authority's data captures to RAG scale the schools on pupil outcomes for statutory EYFS, KS1 and KS2 headline data. End of year 2024/25 performance in the main shows an improving 3-year trend of attainment and progress for 7 out of the 8 schools in statutory tests for all and disadvantaged pupils at the expected level and in greater depth.

Behaviour and attendance

- End of year 24/25 data showed that most of our schools have attendance at least in line with the National Average, with many showing above NA for whole school data and persistent absenteeism being below national figures.
- The Trust has an attendance network group who have been working intensively on a trust-wide policy along with common systems and documentation to allow for accurate monitoring of attendance across the Trust.
- Attendance remains a whole school priority for all the Trust schools and a focus for the development work within Achievement Partner, head teacher meetings and LGB committees.
- The Trust has an agreed policy for suspensions and exclusions with the aim of supporting heads and school leaders in protocols and procedures to follow. This makes clear to all stakeholders the roles and responsibilities, procedures and accountability involved at every stage. Behaviour and attendance will continue to form part of the monitoring cycle of the Trust.

Curriculum

- All Trust schools have their own bespoke curriculum, adapted for the context of their own schools. All schools have attended a Trust-wide training day regarding a Pupil Book Study approach to pedagogic development as well as an approach to quality assuring the curriculum. Following this, a programme of training and support for the Trust has been implemented across all 8 schools which will be further enhanced by Head Teacher Peer Reviews.

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

2. **School improvement**

School improvement begins with a deep dive into the current school improvement offer in each school and our collective offer to improve standards across the Trust.

A Trust directory of support has been created, focusing on the skills and expertise within our schools, utilising this and our network meetings to offer training and development for all, as well as targeted support to individual schools.

Once established within the 8 schools, the Trust then hopes to offer a ONE Education programme to schools outside of the trust who may require additional leadership or teaching support, which will support our income. To begin with this consists of:

- The CEO as a previous National Leader of Education
- Pupil Book Study accredited training and support
- ONE Trust Networks and Calendar of Events
- Head Teacher Peer Review and Quality Assurance

3. **Workforce**

The central team have begun to collect workforce data from schools on a termly basis. This feeds into head teacher reporting to the LGBs and to the CEO. The CEO will consolidate this information for the Board and the relevant committees, which will include the following:

> Staff turnover, attendance and number of vacancies
> Key findings from survey results and/or exit interviews
> Performance management outcomes
> CPD/other training and evaluations
> Restructures, or recruitment plans
> Equality and diversity data

4. **Finance and operations**

> Central services: as part of the 5% top slice from each school's general annual grant, the schools receive the following services, systems and support:

- A single, effective governance structure
- CEO support/challenge
- Financial expertise
- Shared policies and compliance support (including website)
- Data, assessment and monitoring support and challenge
- Safeguarding
- Legal support
- System leadership and workforce development
- Community anchoring
- Stakeholder communication
- Network meetings for all staff
- CPD and training opportunities
- HR support
- Head Teacher support
- Calendar of pupil events

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

5. Governance and leadership

The governance annual handbook and calendar have been utilised effectively for scheduling and ensuring meeting agendas fit with the overall governance planner. The Trust continues to use Governor Hub as an information sharing and communication platform between the Board and its committees. This has specifically been designed for MATs and to aid Trust compliance, in accordance with the Academy Trust Handbook.

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

Key performance indicators

NO.	KPI	RAG RATING	EXPLANATION OF RATING AND WHAT'S BEING DONE
1.	**Safeguarding and Well-being** Health and safety arrangements (including safeguarding protocols) for all schools will follow Keeping Children Safe in Education guidance and demonstrate evidence of compliance in respect of statutory obligations.		All schools use Clennell Education Solutions for safeguarding support. All schools have termly visits and audit checks by a CES consultant, Tracey Welsh, who reports to the FAR committee and liaises with the link trustee for safeguarding (Jeanette Dickson), is now working closely with Lee Comstock (Governance Professional) for compliance and best practice. The individual schools and the Trust have an annual safeguarding plan. The Trust now has an overarching safeguarding policy.
2.	**Governance** Academies will actively support decision making at all tiers of governance, stringently following the principles and processes identified within the ONE Trust Governance Handbook and Planner to support school and academy trust improvement activities.		The DfE Financial Management and Governance audit gave clear actions which have been completed to evidence that the Trust is compliant with all 'musts' of the Academy Trust Handbook. Since that time, the 'shoulds' are now being considered as the Governance model develops and matures. The Trust has appointed a 0.4 Governance Professional and Compliance offer from September 2025 to further support the development of the ONE Trust governance model. Governance pre-set agendas have all been reviewed and revised for 25/26.
3.	**Financial Management** Long and short term financial/budget planning, schedules of contracts, estate management, financial governance and remuneration considerations will support a school budget that is sustainable and in credit.		Budget reforecasting will take place in January 2026 and will be shared with the Board ahead of the 3-year budget setting process. Building survey outcomes will be part of the budget reforecast and capital spend strategy.

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

NO.	KPI	RAG RATING	EXPLANATION OF RATING AND WHAT'S BEING DONE
4.	**Attainment and Progress** Pupil education outcomes will be in line or better than national expectation including pupils with special educational needs or disabilities.		From 2025 statutory data, 6 of the 8 schools within the Trust currently have attainment and progress which is broadly in line or at national average. Many of the schools realised attainment that was above their 2024-2025 target setting. KS2 data for Simonside and Waverley was above their predicted/targeted data and therefore evidences the impact of the work within these schools. There will be a trust-wide focus on progress and attainment of vulnerable pupils.
5.	**Quality Assurance** Ofsted judgements will be at least good in all aspects of school life. Other audit ratings; Risk registers; equality and other reviews will indicate effectiveness.		Knop Law and Throckley have both been inspected in 24-25. Throckley achieved outstanding in all areas and Knop Law achieved outstanding for personal development and good in all other areas. Risk registers are being reviewed regularly by the CFO and Head Teacher at Business and Risk meetings. The FAR and full Board review and update risk registers as a standing item at each meeting.
6	**Attendance and Exclusions** Schools will have in place effective strategies to support attendance levels (including incidents of persistent absence, pupil movement and exclusions) that are at the national average or better.		All schools have now fully implemented and embedded the new ONE Trust Attendance Policy, which was created by the attendance network group, based on the LA format and following the new DfE Working Together to Improve School Attendance guidance. 6 schools have whole school attendance which is above the National Average for 24-25 and persistent absence figures significantly below the National Average for 24-25. There was one permanent exclusion in 24/25. The pupil now attends a specialist provision which is able to accommodate needs.

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

NO.	KPI	RAG RATING	EXPLANATION OF RATING AND WHAT'S BEING DONE
7	**Curriculum Planning** Schools will demonstrate that their staff are appropriately trained through an effective CPD programme and deployed to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum that is afforded financially and planned to support need.		A CDP programme for pedagogic and curriculum development took place in 24/25 based around the Pupil Book Study approach. The success of this has led to the continuation of this project with a new focus area for 25/26. All schools have completed their self-evaluation (using the new ONE Trust School Improvement Strategy), school development plan, Pupil Premium sport premium strategy, along with their annual SEND report. This was shared, discussed and agreed with LGBs. The Trust Network meetings continue to be a strength and offer curriculum and subject support and CPD for staff across all areas of education.
8	**School Community and Pupil Numbers** The Local Governing Bodies will evidence a positive regard for the ethos and culture of the school and community support through stability within the school roll as well as in surveys of pupils and parents – including the views of staff, their well-being and considering human resources.		Stakeholder surveys have been completed in 24/25. Outcomes have been shared with LGBs for school development planning and will feed through to the relevant committees of the Board. Pupil numbers are reported to the Board, discussed and challenged at each meeting. Despite projected falling pupil numbers, the Trust's NOR is 99% of the overall capacity of its schools.

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

Going concern

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

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 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. 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, other income is generated from activities such as school clubs, lettings and small non-government funded grants.

During the period ended 31 August 2025, total expenditure of £16,468,000 (2024: £10,887,000) was exceeded by recurrent grant funding from DfE together with other incoming resources. The excess for the year (excluding pension reserve movements and restricted fixed asset funds) was £720,000 (2024: £468,000).

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

At 31 August 2025 net book value of fixed assets was £17,220,000 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 trust.

The provisions of Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102 have been applied in full in respect of LGPS pension scheme, resulting in a deficit of £nil (2024: deficit of £36,000) recognised on the Balance Sheet.

The academy trust held fund balances as at 31 August 2025 of £19,072,000 comprising £709,000 of restricted general funds, £17,372,000 of restricted fixed asset funds, a pension deficit of £nil and £991,000 of unrestricted funds.

Reserves policy

The academy trust 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 such as capital expenditure
- To cover ongoing costs in relation to the running of the academy trust including catering provisions, school trips and uniform costs

The level of reserves is reviewed by Trustees regularly throughout the year. The minimum level of reserves for the ongoing needs of the academy trust is reviewed by the Trustees 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 Trustees therefore consider it is prudent to hold reserves in the general fund in the form of restricted general funds (excluding pension reserves) and unrestricted funds of 9% of trusts GAG income.

This is considered sufficient to cover:

- Managing cashflow and ensuring that the trust can manage fluctuations in income by making sufficient cash available to pay bills and expenditure items as they fall due.
- Setting aside a contingency amount to cover any unforeseen issues or extra costs throughout the year.
- Building, estates, or non-building capital projects and growing savings to enable maintenance, development and improvement of the trust's infrastructure.
- Developing and growing the trust and ensuring the trust's financial health.
- Preparing for future change and uncertainty.

As at 31 August 2025 the academy trust holds available reserves of £1,700,000, comprising of restricted general funds (excluding pension reserves) of £709,000 and unrestricted funds of £991,000. The Trustees continue to consider additional activities related to the academy trust's objectives to which the excess reserves may be applied, including consideration of future estate management spend.

Investment policy

In 24/25, the academy trust hasn't invested surplus funds through money market accounts but will look to undertake this in 2025/26. Interest rates will be reviewed prior to each investment. This policy looks to maximise 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 DfE/ESFA. In addition, the academy trust is a member of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), which results in the recognition of a significant deficit on the academy trust Balance Sheet.

The Trustees 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 trust, and its finances. The Trustees 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 trust has fully implemented the requirements of the Safe Recruitment procedures, and all staff have received training in this area in addition to training on Child Protection.

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

Fundraising

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

Streamlined energy and carbon reporting

The academy trust's greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption are as follows:

The Academy's greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption are as follows:

	2025
Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh)	1,958,735
Energy consumption breakdown (kWh):	
Gas	1,337,889
Electricity	620,846
Scope 1 emissions (in tonnes of CO2 equivalent):	
Gas consumption	312
Total scope 1	312
Scope 2 emissions (in tonnes of CO2 equivalent):	
Purchased electricity	144
Total gross emissions (in tonnes of C02 equivalent):	456
Intensity ratio:	
Tonnes of CO2 equivalent per pupil	0.20

The Academy has followed and used the following quantification and reporting methodologies:

- the 2019 HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines;
- the GHG Reporting Protocol - Corporate Standard; and
- the 2025 UK Government's Conversion Factors for Company Reporting.

The chosen intensity ratio is total gross emissions in tonnes of CO2 equivalent per pupil, the recommended ratio for the sector.

Plans for future periods

The strategic business plan 2025-2026 has been created and will be used alongside the annual governance planner to ensure compliance, efficacy and evaluation against the strategic aims and the KPIs. The plan incorporates the following key objectives:

- Implement a trust-wide school improvement strategy to include a core, targeted and buy-in offer, bespoke to each school.
- Establish a teaching and learning lead practitioner's group to further develop pedagogical and curriculum refinements.
- Seek opportunities for MAT growth as part of the trust's public and civic duty.
- Implement a vision, strategy and resource asset plan for estate and facilities management, based on school building conditions surveys.

The APACE objectives will be used by each school as part of their individual school development planning from September 2025.

Auditor

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

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

The Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 2 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

H Richardson

Helen Richardson
Chair

ONE (OWL NORTH EAST) TRUST

(A company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Scope of responsibility

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

As Trustees, we have reviewed and taken account of the guidance in DfE's Governance Handbook and competency framework for governance.

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the chief executive, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between ONE (Owl North East) Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met 3 times during the year.

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

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Helen Richardson, Chair	3	3
Scott Archibald	2	3
Phil Clark (appointed 20 March 2025)	2	2
Jeanette Dickson	3	3
Vikki Dixon	3	3
Fergus Hegarty	3	3
Karen Hudson	3	3
Colin Lofthouse	2	3
Helen Simpson	3	3
John Smith	0	3
Julie Stewart	0	3

The Academy Trust Handbook also directs that Academy Trusts should establish a finance committee to provide independent oversight and scrutiny of the Trusts revenue and capital budget setting, monitoring, outcomes and reporting, value for money, to review the Trust estate planning and to set, monitor and evaluate the central support cost contributions payable by the Academies in the Trust.

The Trust Board has therefore resolved to establish a Finance Audit and Risk Committee, to provide independent oversight and scrutiny of the Trusts risks and financial matters.

The Board of Trustees will not delegate overall responsibility for the trust's finances to the Finance Audit and Risk Committee. The committee's delegated powers are set out in the trust's Scheme of Delegation.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Scott Archibald	2	3
Jeanette Dickson	3	3
Vikki Dixon	2	3
Colin Lofthouse	1	3
Liz Simpson	2	3

Review of value for money

As accounting officer, the Chief Executive has responsibility for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The accounting officer understands that value for money refers to 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:

- review existing staffing structures and initiating efficiencies
- setting robust budgets and reforecasting to for 24/25 and then for 25/26-26/27
- implementing monthly business reviews with budget holders, producing accurate performance data and providing technical expertise and business acumen to grow the organisation.

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of academy trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in ONE (Owl North East) Trust for the period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to handle risk

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the academy trust is exposed, together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

The risk and control framework

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

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

The Board of Trustees has decided:

- not to appoint an internal auditor. However, the Trustees have appointed Vicky Robinson, the CFO of Northern Leaders Trust to perform a peer review.

The risk and control framework (continued)

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

- management accounts
- income and debtors
- cash
- expenditure and creditors
- payroll
- risk register
- financial regulations
- financial planning

The peer reviewer prepared a report for to the Board of Trustees, through the finance and audit committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities. The report outlined the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

Review of effectiveness

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

- the work of the reviewer
- the work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework
- the work of external auditor
- correspondence from DfE e.g. Financial notice to improve/notice to improve (FNtI/NtI) and 'minded to' letters.

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

Conclusion

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 2 December 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

H Richardson.

Helen Richardson
Chair of Trustees

J Stuart

Julie Stuart
Accounting Officer

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

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

I confirm that I and the board of trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the Academy, 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.

Julie Stuart
Accounting Officer
Date: 2 December 2025

ONE (OWL NORTH EAST) TRUST

(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles 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 Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 2 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

H Richardson

Helen Richardson
Chair

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF ONE (OWL NORTH EAST) TRUST

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of ONE (Owl North East) Trust (the 'academy trust') 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.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Academy's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF ONE (OWL NORTH EAST) TRUST (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 Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of trustees' responsibilities, the Trustees (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 Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF ONE (OWL NORTH EAST) TRUST (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. 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: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditors' report.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF ONE (OWL NORTH EAST) TRUST (CONTINUED)

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Academy's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Academy's members those matters we are required to state to them in an 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 members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Clive Owen LLP

Kevin Shotton BA BFP FCA (Senior statutory auditor)
for and on behalf of
Clive Owen LLP
Chartered Accountants
& Statutory Auditors
140 Coniscliffe Road
Darlington
County Durham
DL3 7RT

Date: 2/12/25

ONE (OWL NORTH EAST) TRUST

(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO ONE (OWL NORTH EAST) TRUST 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 ONE (Owl North East) Trust during the year 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 have not been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of ONE (Owl North East) Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of ONE (Owl North East) Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 20 December 2023 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, which requires a limited assurance engagement as set out in our engagement letter.

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

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

Our engagement includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the regularity and propriety of the Academy'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;

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO ONE (OWL NORTH EAST) TRUST AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION (CONTINUED)

- Confirmation that the lines of delegation and limits set have been adhered to;
- 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;
- 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 for the purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Clive Owen LLP

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

Date: 2/12/25

ONE (OWL NORTH EAST) TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000	As restated Total funds 2024 £000
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants:	3					
Acquired on conversion		-	-	-	-	18,313
Other donations and capital grants		10	-	58	68	57
Other trading activities	5	333	-	-	333	231
Investments	6	-	11	-	11	-
Charitable activities	4	241	16,226	-	16,467	10,435
Total income		584	16,237	58	16,879	29,036
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	7	584	15,517	367	16,468	10,887
Total expenditure		584	15,517	367	16,468	10,887
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)		-	720	(309)	411	18,149
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	26	-	1,478	-	1,478	531
Asset ceiling restriction		-	(1,497)	-	(1,497)	-
Net movement in funds		-	701	(309)	392	18,680

ONE (OWL NORTH EAST) TRUST

(A company limited by guarantee)

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

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000	As restated Total funds 2024 £000
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward as previously stated		991	8	13,661	14,660	-
Prior year adjustment		-	-	4,020	4,020	-
Total funds brought forward as restated		991	8	17,681	18,680	-
Net movement in funds		-	701	(309)	392	18,680
Total funds carried forward		991	709	17,372	19,072	18,680

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

The notes on pages 35 to 63 form part of these financial statements.

ONE (OWL NORTH EAST) TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 14895735

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025

	Note		2025 £000		As restated 2024 £000
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	14		17,220		17,443
			17,220		17,443
Current assets					
Debtors	15	1,690		615	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,853		1,816	
		3,543		2,431	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(1,691)		(1,158)	
Net current assets			1,852		1,273
Total assets less current liabilities			19,072		18,716
Net assets excluding pension liability			19,072		18,716
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	26		-		(36)
Total net assets			19,072		18,680
Funds of the Academy					
Restricted funds:					
Fixed asset funds	19	17,372		17,681	
Restricted income funds	19	709		44	
Restricted funds excluding pension asset	19	18,081		17,725	
Pension reserve	19	-		(36)	
Total restricted funds	19		18,081		17,689
Unrestricted income funds	19		991		991
Total funds			19,072		18,680

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025

The financial statements on pages 30 to 63 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 2 December 2025 and are signed on their behalf, by:

H Richardson

Helen Richardson
Chair

The notes on pages 35 to 63 form part of these financial statements.

ONE (OWL NORTH EAST) TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

	Note	2025 £000	2024 £000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	21	123	1,770
Cash flows from investing activities	22	(86)	46
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		37	1,816
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		1,816	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	23, 24	1,853	1,816

The notes on pages 35 to 63 form part of these financial statements

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 (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by DfE, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

ONE (Owl North East) Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

1.2 Going concern

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

1.3 Income

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

- **Grants**

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

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

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

- **Donations**

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

- **Other income**

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.3 Income (continued)

- **Transfer on conversion**

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

- **Transfer of existing academies into the trust**

  Where assets and liabilities are received on the transfer of an existing academy into the academy trust, the transferred net assets are measured at fair value and recognised in the balance sheet at the point when the risks and rewards of ownership pass to the academy trust. An equal amount of income is recognised for the transfer of an existing academy into the academy trust within Donations and capital grant income to the net assets acquired.

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**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.5 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 and assets under construction, at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, as follows:

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.5 Tangible fixed assets (continued)

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Freehold property	- 50 years
Furniture and equipment	- 5 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.

1.6 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.

1.7 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.

1.8 Liabilities

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

1.9 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 note 16. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.10 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 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 based on quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. TPS is an unfunded multi-employer scheme with no underlying assets to assign between employers. Consequently, the TPS is treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

The LGPS is a funded multi-employer scheme, and the assets are held separately from those of the Academy 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.

1.11 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 Trustees.

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

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

1.12 Prior year adjustments

Where material errors are identified in prior periods the financial statements are restated in accordance with FRS 102. Comparative figures are adjusted, and the opening balances of assets, liabilities, and equity for the earliest period presented are restated accordingly. The nature and amount of the adjustment are disclosed in note 17 to the financial statements.

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.

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.

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 £367,000.

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 £5,861 which has been assessed to be immaterial to the financial statements.

Critical areas of judgment:

Private Finance Initiative - Throckley Primary School and Westerhope Primary School are subject to contracts under the Private Finance Initiative (PFI). Under this contract, the school premises are maintained and managed for a period of 6 years by the PFI contractor subject to contractual annual fees paid by the Academy. Upon expiry of the PFI contract the residual benefit of the premises passes to the Academy because of a 125-year lease granted to them.

The transactions are accounted for as leasing transactions. As the Academy only enjoys the benefits of the premises subject to the restrictions under the PFI agreement, in the opinion of the Trustees, the Academy does not hold all the risks and rewards of ownership of the premises and the properties are therefore accounted for as an operating lease. The premises are therefore not recognised as an asset in the financial statements of One Trust. The annual charges under the PFI agreement are expensed to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year they relate to as this treatment is more appropriate than recognition on a strict straight-line basis.

3. Income from donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000	Total funds Restated 2024 £000
Donations					
Acquired on conversion	-	-	-	-	18,313
Subtotal detailed disclosure	-	-	-	-	18,313
Donations	10	-	-	10	11
Capital Grants	-	-	58	58	46
Subtotal	10	-	58	68	57
	10	-	58	68	18,370
Total 2024	1,002	(549)	17,917	18,370	

4. Funding for the Academy's charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2024 £000
Academy's educational operations				
DfE grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	11,908	11,908	7,372
Other DfE grants				
Start Up Grants	-	-	-	200
Pupil Premium	-	1,475	1,475	962
PE and Sport Premium	-	147	147	60
UIFSM	-	250	250	117
Rates	-	76	76	52
Teachers' pay grant	-	204	204	128
Teachers' pension grant	-	247	247	103
Other DfE Group grants	-	419	419	54
Trust Capacity Fund	-	-	-	90
MSAG	-	-	-	159
CSBG	-	464	464	-
	-	15,190	15,190	9,297
Other Government grants				
SEN	-	322	322	209
Early Years Funding	-	690	690	643
Local Authority grants	-	3	3	8
Other Government grants	-	21	21	56
	-	1,036	1,036	916
Other income from the Academy's academy's educational operations	241	-	241	222
	241	16,226	16,467	10,435
	241	16,226	16,467	10,435
Total 2024	222	10,213	10,435	

5. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2024 £000
Income from facilities and services	148	148	135
Non student catering income	97	97	52
Rental and lettings income	49	49	18
Receipts from supply teacher insurance	34	34	18
Other income	5	5	8
	333	333	231
Total 2024	231	231	

6. Investment income

	Restricted funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2024 £000
Pension income	11	11	-

7. Expenditure

	Staff Costs 2025 £000	As restated Premises 2025 £000	Other 2025 £000	Total 2025 £000	Total 2024 £000
Academy's educational operations:					
Direct costs	10,741	-	686	11,427	7,877
Allocated support costs	1,180	1,291	2,570	5,041	3,010
	11,921	1,291	3,256	16,468	10,887
Total 2024 as restated	8,019	737	2,131	10,887	

7. Expenditure (continued)

In 2025 of the total expenditure, £584,000 (2024: £464,000) was to unrestricted funds, £367,000 (2024: £236,000 as restated) was to restricted fixed asset funds and £15,517,000 (2024: £10,187,000) was to restricted funds.

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

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

There were no ex gratia payments made in the period.

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	11,427	5,041	16,468	10,887
Total 2024 as restated	7,877	3,010	10,887	

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of direct costs

	Academy's educational operations 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2024 £000
Staff costs	10,591	10,591	7,288
Educational supplies	155	155	90
Staff development	27	27	5
Technology costs	352	352	202
Educational consultancy	103	103	49
Staff expenses	1	1	2
Supply insurance	36	36	49
Transport	70	70	87
Other costs	92	92	105
	11,427	11,427	7,877
Total 2024	7,877	7,877	

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Academy's educational operations 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000	Total funds restated 2024 £000
Pension finance costs	-	-	11
Staff costs	1,330	1,330	731
Depreciation	367	367	236
Staff development	7	7	15
Technology costs	17	17	5
Staff expenses	7	7	-
Transport	9	9	7
Maintenance of premises	85	85	72
Cleaning	389	389	153
Other premises costs	149	149	88
Energy	220	220	180
Rent and rates	76	76	52
Insurance	-	-	3
Operating lease rentals	41	41	28
Catering	1,059	1,059	639
Security	10	10	10
Other costs	1,251	1,251	761
Governance costs	24	24	19
	5,041	5,041	3,010
Total 2024 as restated	3,010	3,010	

9. Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2025 £000	As restated 2024 £000
Operating lease rentals	41	28
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets as restated	367	236
Fees paid to auditors for:		
- audit	21	19

10. Staff

a. Staff costs and employee benefits

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Wages and salaries	8,530	5,852
Social security costs	987	569
Pension costs	2,099	1,383
	11,616	7,804
Agency staff costs	305	166
Severance	-	49
	11,921	8,019

Included in pension costs is a credit of £44,000 (2024: charge of £11,000) relating to the pension deficit actuarial adjustment.

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Severance payments	-	49
Other restructuring costs	-	45
	-	94

b. Staff numbers

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

	2025 No.	2024 No.
Teachers	101	112
Administration & Support	186	182
Management	24	24
	311	318

10. Staff (continued)

c. 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	3	8
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	8	3
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	5	3
In the band £100,001 - £110,000	-	1
In the band £120,001 - £130,000	1	-

d. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy was £288,000 (2024 - £233,000).

11. Central services

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

- A single, effective governance structure
- CEO support/challenge
- Financial expertise
- Shared policies and compliance support (including website)
- Data, assessment and monitoring support and challenge
- Safeguarding
- Legal support
- System leadership and workforce development
- Community anchoring
- Stakeholder communication
- Network meetings for all staff
- CPD and training opportunities
- HR support
- Head Teacher support
- Calendar of pupil events

11. Central services (continued)

The Academy charges for these services on the following basis:

5% of GAG

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Throckley Primary School	77	52
Newburn Manor Primary School	51	35
West Denton Primary School	71	48
Knop Law Primary School	90	61
Milecastle Primary School	48	33
Simonside Primary School	71	48
Westerhope Primary School	86	59
Waverley Primary School	47	32
Total	541	368

12. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2024 - nil).

During the year ended 31 August 2025, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2024 - nil).

13. Trustees' and Officers' insurance

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

14. Tangible fixed assets

	Restated Freehold property £000	Furniture and equipment £000	Computer equipment £000	Restated Total £000
Cost or valuation				
At 1 September 2024	17,679	-	-	17,679
Additions	-	100	44	144
At 31 August 2025	17,679	100	44	17,823
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2024	236	-	-	236
Charge for the year	354	8	5	367
At 31 August 2025	590	8	5	603
Net book value				
At 31 August 2025	17,089	92	39	17,220
At 31 August 2024	17,443	-	-	17,443

15. Debtors

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	9	4
Prepayments and accrued income	609	233
VAT	1,072	378
	1,690	615

16. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Trade creditors	261	260
Other creditors	481	423
Accruals and deferred income	949	475
	1,691	1,158

17. Deferred income

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Deferred income at 1 September 2024	149	-
Resources deferred during the year	391	149
Amounts released from previous periods	(149)	-
Deferred income at 31 August 2025	391	149

At the balance sheet date the academy trust was holding funds received in advance for UIFSM, Early Years and trip income as well as a High Needs potential clawback and other revenue grants.

18. Prior year adjustments

During the year, a material adjustment was identified in the financial statements for the period ended 31 August 2024. The adjustment related to the incorrect valuation of a certain building transferred to the trust upon conversion, which was identified as being understated in the prior periods accounts. This necessitated a restatement of the comparative figures.

The effect of the restatement on the prior period's financial statements is as follows:

Statement of Financial Activities	Prior year (as originally stated)	Adjustment	Prior year (as restated)
Income acquired on conversion	£14,238,000	£4,075,000	£18,313,000
Expenditure on charitable activities	£10,832,000	£55,000	£10,887,000
Balance sheet	Prior year (as originally stated)	Adjustment	Prior year (as restated)
Tangible assets	£13,423,000	£4,020,000	£17,443,000

19. Statement of funds

	As restated Balance at 1 September 2024 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	Balance at 31 August 2025 £000
Unrestricted funds					
General Funds	991	584	(584)	-	991
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	44	11,908	(11,243)	-	709
Pupil Premium	-	1,475	(1,475)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA	-	653	(653)	-	-
SEN Funding	-	322	(322)	-	-
Other Government Grants	-	714	(714)	-	-
Core Schools Budget Grant	-	464	(464)	-	-
Early Years Funding	-	690	(690)	-	-
Pension reserve	(36)	11	44	(19)	-
	8	16,237	(15,517)	(19)	709
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Legacy assets	17,443	-	(354)	-	17,089
Devolved Formula Capital	238	58	(13)	-	283
	17,681	58	(367)	-	17,372
Total Restricted funds	17,689	16,295	(15,884)	(19)	18,081
Total funds	18,680	16,879	(16,468)	(19)	19,072

19. Statement of funds (continued)

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

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.

Universal Infant Free School Meals (included within Other DfE Grants) is funding to provide a free school lunch to all pupils in reception, year 1 and year 2.

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

Other Government grants include Early Years funding for three and four year old children, 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 25.

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.

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.

19. Statement of funds (continued)

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

	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	As restated Balance at 31 August 2024 £000
Unrestricted funds				
General Funds	1,455	(464)	-	991
Restricted general funds				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	7,425	(7,381)	-	44
Pupil Premium	961	(961)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA	462	(462)	-	-
SEN Funding	209	(209)	-	-
Other Government Grants	707	(707)	-	-
Core Schools Budget Grant	159	(159)	-	-
Early Years Funding	90	(90)	-	-
Start up grants	200	(200)	-	-
Pension reserve	(549)	(18)	531	(36)
	9,664	(10,187)	531	8
Restricted fixed asset funds				
Legacy assets	17,679	(236)	-	17,443
Devolved Formula Capital	238	-	-	238
	17,917	(236)	-	17,681
Total Restricted funds	27,581	(10,423)	531	17,689
Total funds	29,036	(10,887)	531	18,680

19. Statement of funds (continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2025 were allocated as follows:

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Central services	498	431
Throckley Primary School	230	152
Newburn Manor Primary School	123	83
West Denton Primary School	206	61
Knop Law Primary School	125	69
Milecastle Primary School	201	124
Simonside Primary School	167	73
Westerhope Primary School	161	97
Waverley Primary School	(11)	(55)
Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve	1,700	1,035
Restricted fixed asset fund	17,372	17,681
Pension reserve	-	(36)
Total	19,072	18,680

The following academy is carrying a net deficit on its portion of the funds as follows:

	Deficit £000
Waverley Primary School	11

The Academy is taking the following action to return the academy to surplus:

The Academy will receive more GAG funding and less staff costs will be incurred.

19. Statement of funds (continued)

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £000	Other support staff costs £000	Educational supplies £000	Other costs excluding depreciation £000	Total 2025 £000	Total 2024 £000
Central services	242	119	-	117	478	370
Throckley Primary School	1,713	164	27	744	2,648	1,596
Newburn Manor Primary School	929	110	14	326	1,379	896
West Denton Primary School	1,505	118	21	512	2,156	1,550
Knop Law Primary School	1,560	99	22	579	2,260	1,455
Milecastle Primary School	817	88	21	347	1,273	829
Simonside Primary School	1,475	116	18	464	2,073	1,428
Westerhope Primary School	1,656	141	19	691	2,507	1,577
Waverley Primary School	845	200	13	269	1,327	950
Academy	10,742	1,155	155	4,049	16,101	10,651

20. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	17,220	17,220
Current assets	991	2,400	152	3,543
Creditors due within one year	-	(1,691)	-	(1,691)
Total	991	709	17,372	19,072

20. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £000	Restricted funds 2024 £000	As restated Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £000	As restated Total funds 2024 £000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	17,443	17,443
Current assets	991	1,202	238	2,431
Creditors due within one year	-	(1,158)	-	(1,158)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(36)	-	(36)
Total As restated	991	8	17,681	18,680

21. Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Net income for the year (as per Statement of financial activities)	411	18,149
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	367	236
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(58)	(46)
Defined benefit pension scheme obligation inherited	-	549
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	(55)	18
Increase in debtors	(1,075)	(615)
Increase in creditors	533	1,158
Funds inherited on conversion	-	(18,670)
Cash inherited on conversion	-	991
Net cash provided by operating activities	123	1,770

22. Cash flows from investing activities

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(144)	-
Capital grants from DfE Group	58	46
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities	(86)	46

23. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Cash in hand and at bank	1,853	1,816
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,853	1,816

24. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2024 £000	Cash flows £000	At 31 August 2025 £000
Cash at bank and in hand	1,816	37	1,853
	1,816	37	1,853

25. Capital commitments

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Contracted for but not provided in these financial statements		
Acquisition of tangible fixed assets	2	-

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 Newcastle City Council. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

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

26. Pension commitments (continued)

Contributions amounting to £245,000 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2025 (2024 - £235,000) 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 will be implemented from 1 April 2024. The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2028.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £1,627,000 (2024 - £1,039,000).

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 is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the plan. Accordingly, the Academy has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 and has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The Academy has set out above the information available on the scheme.

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 £687,000 (2024 - £436,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £522,000 (2024 - £332,000) and employees' contributions totalled £165,000 (2024 - £104,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 15.7 per cent for employers and 18.6 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

Tyne & Wear Pension Fund	2025 %	2024 %
Rate of increase in salaries	4.0	4.0
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.5	2.5
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	6.0	5.0
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.5	2.5
Pension accounts revaluation rate	2.5	2.5

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		
Males	21.2	20.8
Females	24.2	24.0
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	22.1	21.7
Females	25.3	25.1

26. Pension commitments (continued)

Sensitivity analysis

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Discount rate +0.1%	(74)	(110)
Discount rate -0.1%	74	110
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	92	131
Mortality assumption - 1 year decrease	(92)	(131)
Salary increase rate +0.1%	13	16
Salary increase rate -0.1%	(13)	(16)

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	2,830	2,600
Government bonds	59	62
Corporate bonds	1,061	965
Property	651	540
Cash	70	42
Multi Asset Credit	264	233
Other	926	747
Total market value of assets	5,861	5,189

The actual return on scheme assets was £166,000 (2024 - £244,000).

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

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Current service cost	(478)	(339)
Interest income	267	141
Interest cost	(256)	(152)
Total amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities	(467)	(350)

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

	2025 £000	2024 £000
At 1 September	5,225	-
Conversion of academy trusts	-	5,087
Current service cost	478	339
Interest cost	256	152
Employee contributions	165	104
Actuarial gains	(1,579)	(428)
Benefits paid	(181)	(29)
Asset ceiling restriction	1,497	-
At 31 August	5,861	5,225

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	5,189	-
Conversion of academy trusts	-	4,538
Expected return on assets	267	141
Actuarial (losses)/gains	(101)	103
Employer contributions	522	332
Employee contributions	165	104
Benefits paid	(181)	(29)
At 31 August	5,861	5,189

27. Long-term commitments, including operating leases

a. Operating leases

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

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Amounts due within one year	50	40
Amounts due between one and five years	62	60
	112	100

b. Other contractual commitments

At 31 August 2025 the total of the Academy's future minimum lease payments under other contractual commitments was:

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Amounts due within one year	752	726
Amounts due between one and five years	2,416	3,168
	3,168	3,894

28. Members' liability

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

29. Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the Academy and the composition of the Board of Trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the trustees have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook, 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 Trust provided services to CUBA Kids, of which Vikki Allison Dixon (Trustee) is a director, totalling £8,092 (2024: £1,950) during the period. There were no amounts outstanding at 31 August 2025.