

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025



WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

CONTENTS

	Page
Reference and administrative details	1 - 2
Trustees' report	3 - 27
Governance statement	28 - 31
Statement of regularity, propriety and compliance	32
Statement of trustees' responsibilities	33
Independent auditors' report on the financial statements	34 - 37
Independent reporting accountant's report on regularity	38 - 39
Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account	40 - 41
Balance sheet	42 - 43
Statement of cash flows	44
Notes to the financial statements	45 - 70

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members	I Hann P Wasley D Findon P A Wright G Lacey
Trustees	Paul Fowler, Chair Colin McLeod Nicholas McGee Christine Marsland Derek Darlington Ian Hann Karen Highcock Mary Murphy (resigned 30 June 2025) John Price
Company registered number	08278808
Company name	Wade Deacon Trust
Principal and registered office	Wade Deacon High School Birchfield Road Widnes WA8 7TD
Company secretary	I Kirkham
Chief executive officer	G Kelly
Senior management team	G Kelly, Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer I Kirkham, Chief Operations Officer S Robertson, Chief Finance Officer S Corner, Lead Principal Secondary J Brown, Lead Principal Primary A Ryan, Principal Hillside High School B Hesketh, Principal Wade Deacon High School (Appointed 1 June 2025) I Critchley, Principal Halewood Academy L Kirchin, Head of School Widnes Academy I Cooper, Principal Whiston Willis Academy R O'Hanlon, Principal Yew Tree Academy R Harrison, Principal Sylvester Primary Academy (Retired 31 August 2025) J Jardine, Principal The Grange Academy
Independent auditors	WR Partners Chartered Accountants 3, Royal Court Gadbrook Park Northwich Cheshire CW9 7UT

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

Bankers	HSBC Bank Plc Vista St Davids Park Chester Cheshire CH5 3DT
Solicitors	Business Services Group Hill Dickinson LLP No. 1 St Paul's Square Liverpool L3 9SJ

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year from 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.

For the period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 the Trust operated as a Multi Academy Trust. The Trust currently serves the towns of Widnes and Runcorn in the Borough of Halton, Bootle in the Borough of Sefton and Huyton, Whiston & Halewood in the Borough of Knowsley.

The Trust as of August 2025 had a pupil capacity of 6,060 (excluding nursery & DSP provision) across its nine schools.

The membership of Wade Deacon Trust as at 31 August 2025 is:

- Wade Deacon High School, Widnes (Halton) 11-16 (converted 1 March 2013). Capacity 1,625 (Planned Admission Number 325). Number on roll Autumn Term census 2024 (Yr7 11) is 1,635 students.
- Widnes Academy, Widnes (Halton) 3-11 (converted 1 February 2015) Sponsored Academy. Capacity 210 plus 52 Nursery (Planned Admission Number 30). Number on roll Autumn Term census 2024 (Reception Y6) is 127 students.
- Hillside High School, Bootle (Sefton) 11-16 (converted 1 March 2015) Sponsored Academy. Capacity 725 (Planned Admission Number 145 [Interim 175]). Number on roll Autumn Term census 2024 (Yr7 11) is 749 students.
- Sylvester Primary Academy, Huyton (Knowsley) 3-11 (converted 1 January 2017) Converter Academy. Capacity is 420 plus 52 Nursery (Planned Admission Number 30 [Interim 60]). Number on roll Autumn Term census 2024 (Reception – Y6) is 259 students.
- Halewood Academy, Halewood (Knowsley) y – 11-16 Sponsored Academy. Capacity is 1,200 (Planned Admission Number 240). Number on roll Autumn Term census 2024 (Yr7 11) is 1,156 students.
- The Grange Academy 3-16 (converted 1 January 2018) Converter Academy. This is an all through school with a capacity of 1,320 plus 52 Nursery and 30 Resource Base places (Planned Admission Number Primary 60, Secondary 180). Number on Role Autumn Term census 2024 (Reception –Y11) is 1,169 students.
- Whiston Willis Primary Academy, Whiston (Knowsley) (converted 1 May 2018) Converter Academy. Capacity is 420 plus 52 Nursery (Planned Admission Number 60) Number on roll Autumn Term census 2024 (Reception –Y6) is 346 students.
- Yew Tree Primary Academy, Halewood (Knowsley) 3-11 (converted 1 September 2018) Converter Academy. Also has a Designated Specialist Provision (DSP). Capacity 210, plus 28 DSP. Number on roll Autumn Term census 2024 (Reception –Y6 & DSP) is 215 students.
- Weston Point Primary Academy, Runcorn (Halton) 3-11 (converted on 1 January 2024) Sponsored Academy. Capacity is 140 (Planned Admission Number 20) Number on roll Autumn Term census 2024 (Reception Y6) is 84 students.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

(continued)

a. Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The Academy is a charitable 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 charitable company is known as Wade Deacon Trust.

The Trustees of Wade Deacon Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law.

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

The Trustees undertake the strategic review of the Academy Trust and powers are delegated to local Governing Bodies; the levels of which are subject to the needs of each individual school.

b. 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.

c. Trustees' indemnities

Subject to the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 every Governor or other officer or Auditor of the Academy Trust shall be indemnified out of the assets of the Academy Trust against any liability incurred by them in that capacity in defending any proceedings, whether civil or criminal, in which judgement is given in favour or in which they are acquitted or in connection with any application in which relief is granted to them by the court from liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the affairs of the Academy Trust.

Professional Indemnity Insurance is in place to protect Trustees, Governors, and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring on Trust business.

d. Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

The management of the Academy is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Memorandum of Association.

The appointment of Trustees may be made by the Members passing a resolution as contained within the Articles of Association.

With regards to the appointment of parent and staff Governors, procedures are in place for their nomination, election and appointment.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

(continued)

e. Policies adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

New Trustees are inducted into the workings of the Trust, including details of policies and procedures, together with an appropriate training schedule depending upon their existing area of expertise.

f. Organisational structure

The Trustees are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual plan and budget, monitoring the Trust and Academies by the use of financial management information, making strategic decisions about the direction of the Trust and capital expenditure, making senior appointments and approving the Annual Report and Financial Statements.

As at 31st August 2025 the MAT consists of nine Academies.

The Trustees delegate the leadership and management of the Trust to the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Operations Officer, Executive/Lead Principals and Principals. Each Academy has a Senior Leadership Team (SLT) structure in place to support the delegation of responsibilities.

The level of delegation will be subject to assessment and review of performance and also the capacity of each Academy. A small focused central team supports the operation of the Trust. The Senior Leadership Team (SLT), as appropriate to each Academy, would normally consist of Principal, Vice Principals, Assistant Vice Principals and a Business Manager (or equivalent post holder). These leaders control the Trust and Academies at a senior level, implementing the policies laid down by the Trustees & Local Governing Bodies and reporting back to them. As a group the SLT is subject to relevant delegation being granted and responsibility for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets and the appointment of staff (excluding the appointment of a Principal).

Senior Leadership teams will operate at each Academy and are responsible for the day to day operation of the Trust and the Academies. In particular they are responsible for organising the staff (teaching and support), facilities and students.

The Wade Deacon Multi Academy Trust Board of Trustees has an Audit & Compliance Committee and a Standards Committee.

The role of the Audit and Compliance Committee is to advise the Board on matters relating to the Trust's finance and audit arrangements, systems of internal control, risk management and statutory compliance. The Committee will also advise and aid the Board in ensuring the sound management of the Trust's finances and resources. This will include proper planning, monitoring and probity. The Audit & Compliance Committee is responsible to the Trust Board.

The role of the Standards Committee is to advise the Board on matters relating to Trust's curriculum, quality and standards. The Committee will also advise and aid the Board in ensuring the standards of leadership and management is high. This will include proper planning, monitoring and probity. The Compliance Committee is responsible to the Trust Board.

Both the Board of Trustees and the Audit and Compliance group meet regularly throughout the year. Members meet on a termly basis. An appropriate meeting in each academic year being used to hold the Annual General Meeting following the submission of accounts.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

(continued)

g. Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

Academy Trustees are non salaried and therefore no pay and remuneration scales are applicable.

The Academy Trust continues to refer to School Teachers' Pay & Conditions Document (STPCD) and National Joint Council (NJC) to support relevant grade and pay range allocations.

The setting of salaries (and pay range) for Principals, Vice Principals and Assistant Vice Principals is undertaken using the STPCD Leadership Pay Group section guidance.

h. Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the year	8
Full-time equivalent employee number	8

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	5
1%-50%	3
51%-99%	-
100%	-

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time £

Total cost of facility time	486
Total pay bill	35,848,594
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	- %
---	-----

i. Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)

The transactions with respect to related parties and other connected charities and organisations have been disclosed in note 26 to these financial statements.

Wade Deacon MAT Services Ltd, a company limited by guarantee, was incorporated on 18 May 2023. The principal activity of the company is to operate the trading activities of the Trust. Any surpluses generated are transferred to the Trust as gift aid donations.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

(continued)

j. Engagement with suppliers, customers and others in a business relationship with the Academy

Key to the way we work and our success, are our colleagues and partners who collectively have the knowledge, skills and experience to continually improve the offer for our pupils. We work together to solve problems, overcome barriers, to test things out and continually improve.

Our expectation in all of our academies is that our colleagues are highly skilled, that they continue to develop and are as ambitious for themselves as well as our pupils.

Working within a common structure and bound by our vision of 'A Commitment to Excellence', our academies are supported and encouraged to maintain their own distinctive characteristics and to tailor their curriculum so that it meets the needs of their pupils and to best serve their communities. Our principals are responsible for the academy they lead and are accountable for the outcomes their pupils achieve. Being part of a partnership of academies brings with it challenge and support as well as opportunities to share ideas, share best practice and to share resources where this adds value.

One of Wade Deacon Trust's key objectives is to be a great employer and we are fully committed to our employee's continued professional development. The Trust offers strong CPD opportunities for all of our employees; we believe this is an essential part of our role as an employer and as educators.

With a range of exciting opportunities for aspiring teachers and educational leaders, Wade Deacon Trust provides the very best support and training to assist staff in achieving their goals.

We are passionate about providing tailored support from the journey to all levels of educational development.

At Wade Deacon Trust we know that having employees who are happy and enthusiastic is an extremely important part of creating successful schools that provide the first class education that our students deserve. Therefore, we aim to provide a working environment that keeps our employees satisfied in their jobs.

The Wade Deacon Trust employs a diverse range of people in a variety of professions and sectors, who all work together to create wonderful community. Our Trust is about so much more than just teaching, and we strive to give opportunities to as many people, in as many fields, as possible.

Our Trust ensures the best possible facilities and provisions to keep our employees engaged and working hard for the benefit of our students. We appreciate the work of each and every person within Wade Deacon Trust, and recognise that everyone plays an equally valuable part in ensuring that The Wade Deacon Trust runs smoothly all year round for our students.

We have a number of options and benefits available for our employees that come as part of the employment package with Wade Deacon Trust. These include competitive salary and benefits and career progression opportunities. We are always evaluating the pay and benefits we offer our employees and taking account of the changing environment around us to ensure that we continue to be a first choice employer for prospective and existing staff. We ensure that employees are paid fairly and well. To compliment this, we provide opportunities for salary progression and we take this opportunity very seriously. We know that our employees work hard and we do the best that we can to recognise, celebrate and reward hard work, dedication to our students and achievement.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

(continued)

k. Engagement with suppliers, customers and others in a business relationship with the Academy Trust

Wade Deacon Trust treats all of the suppliers it engages in business with as partners in realising the Trust's principles and aims to work together with them to adapt to both changing times and emerging demands from society. This is precisely why the entire Trust also works hard to ensure the practice of fair transactions and competition amongst its suppliers.

Wade Deacon Trust engages with a large number of suppliers across the Academies. We always look to be honest with our suppliers and aim to maintain strong dialogue with all of our suppliers. Strong buyer supplier relationships are built on collaboration and as a Trust we look to be pro active with our suppliers.

As a Trust, whilst following the clear guidelines set out by the Academies Financial Handbook with regards to obtaining value for money, we encourage our Academies to seek local suppliers where practical. Our Academies are an integral part of their communities and by adopting a policy of looking to support local businesses if possible we can provide support to those communities and benefit the stakeholders to the academies.

We report every six months on the prompt payment of suppliers (in line with government requirements) and work towards improving our payment terms and conditions wherever possible.

The main customers who use the Trust are based around the use of our facilities across the academies. We undertake a policy across the Trust of prioritising the use of the facilities for local users as well as looking to prioritise use which aligns with our strategic goals. Examples of this include engaging with local youth sports teams to utilise 3 G sports facilities across our sites as well as making resources available for local groups to use.

Objectives and activities

a. Objects and aims

The main objectives of the Trust are summarised below:

- To raise the standard of educational achievements of all pupils in the Trust's academies
- To ensure that every child enjoys the same high-quality education in terms of resourcing, teaching and learning
- To improve the effectiveness of the Academies by keeping the curriculum and organisational structures under continual review
- To comply with all appropriate statutory and curriculum requirements
- To provide value for money for the funds expended
- To conduct the Trust and Academy business in accordance with the highest standards of integrity, probity and openness.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

Objectives and activities (continued)

b. Objectives, strategies and activities

The Trusts' main strategy is to develop and maintain a culture of excellence across our organisation that continues to provide opportunities for our students.

Wade Deacon High School converted to 'Academy' status in March 2013 and founded the Wade Deacon Trust. This status was adopted because of our quest to continually improve the quality of learning and teaching for the benefit of all students. In addition, all the Trustees of the Trust are committed to training and the life-long learning of all our members of staff and the community.

Students and staff work side-by-side with the latest technological developments to enhance further the quality of our teaching and learning. We help students to develop real life solutions to real life problems, using industry standard equipment to achieve their goals.

As a major contributor to the concept of lifelong learning, we are a Trust that makes a difference within our school Academy communities. We achieve this by engaging in collaborative projects with our community partners and sharing our resources with them.

Throughout all the Trust's Academies, students are encouraged to take pride in themselves, their actions and their achievements. We have high expectations of students' academic work, the manner in which they conduct themselves around their Academy campus and their presence in the local community beyond. An orderly and disciplined environment is a key feature of our work in the Trust. The success of this is based on enhancing and maintaining excellent standards of self-discipline, school uniform and the promotion of a sense of pride and belonging to the Trust and its Academies.

High levels of attendance are expected throughout each year group so that everyone can take full advantage of the range of curricular and extra-curricular opportunities available. Levels of attainment are most easily raised when students attend all lessons, allowing continuity of the teaching and learning environment.

Regular extended learning is an integral part of the learning culture of the school. Tasks set are intended to broaden and develop an individual's scope for independent learning as well as reinforcing work completed during the school day.

The Trust as a whole continues on its journey to becoming the finest education provider across the Merseyside region. Through careful management and development, the Trust has provided significant value added experience to both the pupils and staff at all nine of our academies.

c. Public benefit

The principal objective of the Trust is to advance, for the public benefit, education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing the Academies, offering a broad and balanced curriculum. In setting the Trust's objectives and planning its activities, the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

Objectives and activities (continued)

d. Trust Development

The current Trust Board of Trustees are from a diverse range of backgrounds and each one has a different type of expertise to offer; however, they all have one thing in common and that is a commitment to an exceptional education, where tradition is respected and innovation is encouraged. The vision is for every school in the Trust to be an outstanding school where every child receives an exceptional education.

As the Trust develops and grows, the Trustees will have regard for the operational processes of the schools within the Trust, and will make adjustments to both the structure and membership of the relevant bodies in order to ensure that the Trust can manage the schools in accordance within the required Ofsted framework and ensure that the core principles are sustained.

The Trust believes in giving every student the opportunity to develop his or her talents to the full and expects every student to work very hard in order to achieve this. The Trust is committed to an exceptional education where tradition is respected and innovation is encouraged. The Academy is committed to training and the life-long learning of all our members of staff and the community. Students and staff work side-by-side with the latest technological developments to further enhance the quality of our teaching and learning.

Students are helped to develop real life solutions to real life problems, using industry standard equipment to achieve their goals. As a major contributor to the concept of lifelong learning, all Trust schools make a difference within their communities. We achieve this by engaging in collaborative projects with our community partners and sharing our resources with them.

Throughout school, students are encouraged to take pride in themselves, their actions and their achievements. We have high expectations of students' academic work and the manner in which they conduct themselves around the school campus and in the community beyond. An orderly and disciplined environment is a key feature of work in our schools.

The success of the school is based on promoting and maintaining excellent standards of self-discipline and school uniform, along with the promotion of a sense of pride and belonging to the school.

The Trust is always exploring ways to improve the experience of all stakeholders and the engagement of both students and parents/carers.

The success we achieve in the classroom is enhanced by a wide range of enrichment courses which are made available to all students. Everyone is encouraged to use part of their recreation time for participation in one or more of these opportunities. Clubs and societies, clinics and extra classes are all designed to broaden the experiences of the school's young people outside of their compulsory curriculum diet.

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

WADE DEACON TRUST

The Trust has focused primarily on improving the outcomes within our nine existing academies and is working towards welcoming Oakdene Primary to the Trust this shortly after the year end. Our future growth and development strategy is based upon proving that we as a Trust have a track record of developing and improving the Academies within our Trust.

Key metrics show improvement across the board and the Trust is now in an excellent position to welcome and

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

develop new Schools who are looking to join up with a dynamic improving Trust. The following is a table showing the current Ofsted judgements in each School:

School	Judgement	Date of Judgement
Wade Deacon High School	Outstanding	Jan-23
Halewood Academy	Good	May-22
Hillside High School	Good	Sep-23
The Grange Academy	Good	Jul-22
Sylvester Primary	Good	Nov-24
Weston Point Primary	TBC	New to trust
Widnes Primary	Good	May-23
Whiston Willis Primary	Outstanding	Jan-24
Yew Tree Primary	Good	Jan-23

The Trust recognises below the individual achievements and performance of each of its constituent academies and is rightly proud of everything that they achieve.

WADE DEACON HIGH SCHOOL

Academy Performance and Improving Outcomes

It has been another very successful year at Wade Deacon High school with some real points of celebration to note. The school remains oversubscribed, despite having increased the PAN in year 7, 8 and 9. GCSE outcomes in 2025 are very positive and reflect a positive response from leaders following a drop in results last year, resulting in an average attainment 8 score of 5.36. This is an increase of 0.54 from the previous year and a 0.12 increase from 2022-23 (pre-release year).

More pleasingly, the average attainment 8 score has increased 0.08 since 2019 which was the school's strongest set of results pre-Covid. Compared to 2024 results, we have seen improvements in 19 subject areas this year (English Language, English Literature, Maths, Trilogy, Geography, History, French, Spanish, Art, Business, DT, Food Preparation, Music, PE, RE, Creative I-Media, Dance, Performing Arts and Sports Studies) with 9 subjects achieving a higher average attainment 8 score than the aspirational school targets set (English Language, Geography, History, DT, PE, Creative iMedia, Dance, Performing Arts and RE).

The focus on English and Maths has shown a significant increase in headline figures with 76.3% achieving a Grade 9-4 and 62.1% achieving Grade 9-5 in both subjects. This is an increase of 8% for Grades 9-4 and 15% for Grades 9-5. Whilst there is still a gap in attainment between English and Maths, both subjects have increased their results at each key attainment threshold since 2024. On an individual basis, 67.6% of all entries were awarded a Grade 5 or above with 81.5% of all entries awarded a Grade 4 or above. Almost one fifth of all students were awarded at least one top level grade with a total of 159 Grade 9's awarded in total.

The Academy's impact on the local community

Throughout the year, a key priority for the school has been improving engagement, both at a pupil and parent level. A relentless drive from teachers and leaders to remove barriers with parents and carers to build a better working partnership yielded some really positive results, none more so than attendance at all parents evenings being 91% or better for each year group.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

In addition to this, in February, we welcomed nearly 200 former students back to Wade Deacon for a special alumni reunion. With members having attended between 1950-1980, it represented a real nostalgic trip down memory lane for some of our alumni. Organised by past pupils and supported by staff, the event was a heart-warming celebration of shared memories and community spirit. Guests toured the school, reconnected with old friends and shared some wonderful memories and memorabilia from their time as Wade Deacon students. This was a truly humbling event and one that showcased the importance of Wade Deacon in many of their lives.

Highlights and Successes

Wade Deacon was recognised nationally for outstanding student engagement in the Summer 2025 TEP (The Engagement Platform) Survey and additionally were awarded an incredible number of recognition badges due to the positive results. Wade Deacon consistently met the extremely high threshold response rate required to ensure these results are truly representative of our school, making this recognition particularly meaningful

The school was recognised in the top 5% of schools nationally for KS3 effort, enjoyment and inclusion while also being in the top 5% nationally for KS4 effort, inclusion and positive pupil recommendation. In the summer term, the school were also invited to attend a DfE roundtable event which focused on the progress of white working class children. The school was invited due to being one of the schools nationally that achieve more progress than most with this cohort. This was a significant point of recognition for the school and one that provided an opportunity to listen to and learn from other schools in addition.

HALEWOOD ACADEMY

Academy Performance and Improving Outcomes

In terms of overall achievement, we saw further improvements in the attainment figures across the school. With the schools attainment Headline basics measure at 9.5 with improved by 12% to 38% and the percentage of students achieving both English and maths at grade 4 increased to 56%. English at 9-4 and 9-5 improved again to achieving 71% and 58% respectively. Mathematics outcomes improved with 59% achieving a standard pass and 41% achieving a strong pass.

There is now considerable strength across the curriculum with improvements in all Ebacc subjects and many subjects achieving above the National Average at 9-4. There are Biology, Chemistry, Physics, RE, GCSE PE, Sports Science, Art, Dance, Drama, Music, Sports Studies, Photography and Child Care & Development.

The Academy's impact on the local community

Halewood Academy continues to be an integral part of the local community and being oversubscribed in Year 7 shows how much the school is valued locally. Parents' evening attendance showed that our families work closely with the school with an average attendance of over 75%.

The school continues to work closely with the local primary school and the schools collaborated on projects in both English, Drama and Music. We also recognise the significant challenges and have supported many families through the local authority household support fund and set up the Halewood Pantry for families to use should they need to. We hold the annual Halewood Town Festive Performance and have strong links with Liverpool & Everton Football Clubs community outreach programmes.

We also have the Halewood Pantry which supports members of the community with essential items of food and toiletries.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

Highlights and Successes

The improvement in outcomes and a former student gaining a place at Oxford University rank as some of the more notable achievements. Many sports teams continue to have success both locally and regionally with three year groups winning the Knowsley Cup in Football. We had two year 10 students represent us in the Knowsley Education Awards for sporting success.

Halewood Academy continues to benefit from the support and rigour of Challenge Partners and this provides excellent CPD for senior leaders to support and challenge other schools. Many leaders across the school have completed and currently undertaking a range of approved NPQs which demonstrates a commitment to ongoing CPD. The extra curricular programme continues to grow and there are 130 extra curricular opportunities for students to engage in before, during and after school.

HILLSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

Academy Performance and Improving Outcomes

Many Hillside pupils have once again achieved excellent GCSE results. In nearly all key measures we have seen a significant increase on the previous year's results – for example an increase in attainment 8 from 34 in 2024 to 39 in 2025, an increase in pupils achieving 4+ in English and Maths from 49.5% to 56.5% and 5+ from 24% to 34%. Nearly all measures are showing a positive improving trend over three years. The improvement in the number of higher grades was evident in the vast majority of subjects. We are delighted that the percentage of pupils achieving a standard pass in the EBACC exceeded the National Average and Sefton average – a reflection of the importance we place on a traditional core curriculum coupled with a wide range of other subjects to meet pupils' interests, skills and needs.

Achievements and Performance

Overall, pupils achieved 136 top grades (7+) with over 40% of all pupils achieving at least one of these. There has been a strong growth in achievement in Business Studies, Geography, Music, Sports Studies, Maths and Drama, and continued strength in Separate Sciences, Spanish, English Literature. Science saw a 10% increase in pupils attaining two standard passes. Geography improved by over 30% at 4+, History by nearly 8%, and Spanish by 12%.

Business rose from 38% to 63% at 4+, Computer Science from 58% to 75%, Music from 57% to 70%. Business Studies, Computer Science, and Maths exceeded National Averages at 5+, with Maths also surpassing National Averages at 7+ and 9+.

SEND cohort's average Attainment 8 score increased by 6.11 compared to last year and 3.2 compared to 2023.

Impact on the Local Community

Our community events continue to thrive with our Christmas market and community evening, 'The Big Top' attracting well over 400 visitors.

Our summer school welcomed over 120 Year 6 pupils from a range of primary schools culminating in a celebration event which included the families of those pupils. Our Christmas Concert and summer show 'Oliver' brought a significant number of families and pupils into school including Year 5 pupils from several local primary schools.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

THE GRANGE ACADEMY

Performance and Improving Outcomes

This academic year, in the secondary phase, the overall average attainment 8 is 35.89, which is an increase on last year's 33.15, meaning there is a +2.6 difference. Our disadvantaged pupils achieved an average attainment 8 of 29.8. This is a +1.1 increase from last academic year for disadvantaged pupils.

In the primary phase, we had great success across all phases. Within EYFS, the children made good progress from their initial low baseline assessment with 68% of the children achieving a Good Level of Development, which is in line with N/A. Within Year 1, 87% of the children (-RB) passed the Phonics Screening Check. The end of KS2 results (-RB) were 78% achieving the expected standard in reading which is above the N/A of 75% and 29% achieving GD. In writing, 80% of the cohort achieved the expected standard significantly above N/A at 72% with 24% at GD. In maths, 64% of the cohort achieved the expected standard which is just below N/A with 11% achieving GD. 58% achieved RWM combined, with 7% GD.

Impact on the local community

As a school we serve a large proportion of disadvantaged families, with over 60% of our cohort being in receipt of Pupil Premium. The school has a food pantry where parents can come and collect staple food items. At Christmas, the school provide hampers to support our most vulnerable families. There is also a uniform recycle scheme in place, whereby parents can collect donated uniform from school. The school runs community events such as a Christmas Bingo, where families and friends of the school join staff to celebrate the festive period.

During the last academic year, the school introduced Grange Fresh. As part of our collaboration with the Tesco Stronger Start programme, the school provide daily fruit and vegetables to students. To extend the offer, the school provided over 100 families with the ingredients to make a hearty winter soup during the winter months and then in summer, provided the ingredients for students / families to make a healthy summer salad and jacket potatoes.

During the year, the school conducted 97 trips and visits including 1 overseas trip, 6 residential trips and 3 adventurous trips. This amounted to 4171 participant days.

Successes

Primary

- Year 6 children visited the famous London landmarks of Buckingham Palace and Trafalgar Square and had a cruise down the River Thames. The children also enjoyed going to the theatre to watch Wicked.
- Year 2 children have been on an overnight residential to Tattenhall participating in outdoor activities.
- Year 4 children attended a two-night residential to PGL where they took part in lots of adventurous activities such as caving, climbing and the giant rope swing.
- The children have taken part in a variety of sporting competitions throughout the year, competing against other local schools. This included netball, athletics, football and curling.
- At Christmas, we attended The Brindley theatre as a whole school to watch the Pantomime Aladdin.

Secondary

- A cohort of Year 10 students attended the Wimbledon Championships to watch the men's quarter finals on Court 1.
- A group of Year 9 students enjoyed a long weekend in Paris where they immersed themselves in French culture and visited famous Parisian landmarks.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

SYLVESTER PRIMARY

Academy Performance and Improving Outcomes

At Sylvester Primary Academy, our curriculum statement of intent clearly outlines our aim to provide our children with an engaging, exciting and empowering curriculum, that equips them for today and tomorrow. We support learners through experiences that will harness their love for learning, whilst nurturing their individuality. The stimulating curriculum is designed to encourage creativity, problem solving, resilience, proactive thinking and collaboration, to develop independence. Our aim is to provide a high quality, broad and balanced language rich curriculum, linked to a range of high-quality texts, delivered through rich, imaginative and cross-curricular learning that will inspire children. The school's curriculum meets statutory requirements of the National Curriculum, ensuring full coverage and progression. It reflects our school promises of Ready, Respectful and Safe effectively.

Progress of pupils in EYFS at Sylvester is very good, relative to their low baseline assessments. The percentage of pupils achieving GLD at the end of EYFS in 2025 was broadly in line with national averages. In 2025, the percentage of pupils working at the required standard in phonics at the end of Year 1 was 75%. In 2025, 57% of pupils gained full marks in the Multiplication Tables Check in Year 4, with an average score of 23. This was way above national, which was 38%. In 2025, KS2 pupils achieved broadly in line with national figures in maths and writing. 13% of pupils attained the higher standard in combined reading/writing and mathematics, this was above the national figure which was 8%. Attendance ended 2024/25 at 94.6% which was above the LA figure of 93.5%. This was due to the successful work the school undertook with the dedicated attendance officer, including First Day Response, early morning breakfast calls and attendance incentive schemes.

The Academy's impact on the local community

Over the last year, links have been forged with the local community, though participation in community events and parents are invited to the school for various activities, such as MacMillian coffee mornings, Christmas fayres, "Stay and Play" and "Meet the Teacher" sessions. Sylvester also worked alongside 'Aid to All', a local charity, to support local families with Christmas gifts. Pupils also helped to prepare hampers for local families. In the last parental survey (September 2025), 96% of parents said they would recommend the school to another parent.

We have a toddler group at Sylvester, which supports existing and new families to Sylvester. Our 30-hour Nursery provision offer continues to meet the needs of more of our working parents and this has attracted families to our setting. We work in co-operation with our local community hub and have a resource area there, where our families can access high quality second- hand school uniforms free of charge. We also have links with local food banks and a range of other charitable organisations, where we donate items, but are also able to refer families to.

Highlights and Successes

Sylvester Primary Academy currently has 285 pupils on roll (Nursery – Y6), an increase on last year's overall numbers. Over the last year, we have had investment in building work from the Wade Deacon Trust with the creation of a new office space. Sylvester was able to maintain 'Wellbeing Award' status after reaccreditation. The school also achieved the Gold Sports Mark for a second year and we hope to reach platinum status by the end this academic year. Throughout the last year, we have successfully recruited additional staff members including teachers, teaching assistants and midday supervisors.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

We have continued to work successfully with other schools across the Trust on successful strategies, such as moderation and peer review. We currently have one teacher who is a Trust Primary Improvement Lead and another teacher who is leading The Ogden Trust science initiative across 25 schools in Knowsley.

WIDNES ACADEMY

Academy Performance and Improving Outcomes

This academic year there have been a number of academic highlights for Widnes Academy. One of the standout highlights has been the percentage of children attaining a combined greater depth score in reading, writing, and mathematics. The results were above the national average moving from 0% the previous year. This significant achievement reflects our commitment to ensuring that children are not only meeting the expected standards but excelling beyond them. The year-on-year increase in the number of children achieving these higher standards demonstrates the hard work of our dedicated staff and students.

Additionally, our phonics screening scores and end of Reception results continue to be broadly in line with the national average. We are particularly proud that the percentage of children passing the phonics screening check by the end of Year 2 surpasses the national benchmark.

A particularly achievement this year has been our mathematics multiplication scores. An impressive 53% of our children achieved a perfect score of 25 out of 25, placing us in the 80th percentile nationally. With the national percentage for this figure sitting at 39%. This result highlights the proficiency of our pupils in mathematics.

I'm pleased to share that our EAL children continue to achieve well at Widnes Academy. 75% of our EAL students reached an expected or above score at the end of Year 6, which is higher than the national average of 64%. Their progress is a testament to our inclusive learning environment!

These achievements are a reflection of the hard work of everyone at Widnes Academy — the teachers, the children, and their families who continue to support our school values.

The Academy's impact on the local community

Widnes Academy truly continues to be at the heart of our community in West Bank. We pride ourselves on fostering an inclusive environment where families feel not only welcome but also feel they can play a part in the school community. Our recent Nativity plays and end-of-year showcase were attended by many parents, who expressed what a fantastic sense of community spirit these events brought.

Throughout this year, our students have taken the lead in celebrating and promoting our local area. They've engaged with local councillors, met Derek Twigg MP, and even had conversations with the mayor. During these meetings, our children have shown themselves to be real advocates for change. They spoke passionately about how West Bank can be improved for future generations, giving their perspective on local issues that matter most to them.

Highlights and Successes

A significant highlight for the school this year was achieving a TEP engagement award, placing us in the top 10% nationally for student engagement. This accolade is a true reflection of the strategies we have implemented to ensure that our children not only enjoy coming to school but also love learning.

Throughout the academic year, our pupils have continued to represent Widnes Academy proudly at a number of

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

sporting and performing events. We had two cricket teams take part in the Halton Cricket Tournaments, showcasing their skills and teamwork. Additionally, our swimming team did outstandingly well, coming second in the Halton Swimming Gala.

Our children have also truly shone on stage. They showcased their talents at the Brindley Theatre through captivating dance performances, and our school choir entertained audiences at Sts Peter and Paul. These events highlight not only their individual talents but also the camaraderie and confidence that come from performing as a group.

We are committed to offering a broad range of after-school clubs, allowing our children the opportunity to experience activities that they might not encounter at home. From ballet and circus skills to drama and various team games, there is an extra-curricular club that all children can attend free of charge. We believe these experiences are crucial for fostering creativity and teamwork.

WHISTON WILLIS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Academy Performance and Improving Outcomes

Whiston Willis continues to offer a high-quality education for all learners and ensures that all pupils achieve well. School strives to develop strong basic foundational skills in reading, writing and maths in addition to offering a broad and balanced curriculum that provides pupils with an ever-growing knowledge and understanding across subjects and be 'high school ready' when leaving the academy.

The teaching of early reading continues to be a priority for the school and previous successes have been maintained in the last academic year in terms of pupils meeting the Y1 phonics screen. (top 25% nationally)

Outcomes in the Y4 multiplication tables check continue to improve and outcomes have placed us in the top 10% nationally.

Our end of Key Stage Two data is in line with national figures in all aspects.

The Academy's impact on the local community

The expansion of the PAN for the school is having a positive impact on the school community. We have continued to offer 30-hour provision for pupils in the local community which has supported a number of working families throughout the year.

As a school, we have worked with the local church and foodbanks to support vulnerable families within the community and have worked with local charity organisations to ensure Whiston Willis school uniform is recycled and available to members of our school community.

Our Pastoral Team have supported many families across our school community in many aspects of life. Families have been signposted to external services when required and this has been successful in identifying the correct support at the right time.

Highlights and Successes

We continue to offer a wide extra-curricular offer for our pupils. We celebrated again with over one hundred pupils graduating at our 'Children's University' graduation. This offer is supplemented with ongoing participation in sports events across the local area and links being developed with local grass roots sports clubs.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

School continues to hold Rights Respecting School Gold Status as only one of six hundred nationally. Reaccreditation was completed in Sports Games award and we continue to be a flagship school for 'The Literacy Tree'.

YEW TREE PRIMARY ACADEMY

Academy Performance and Improving Outcomes

At Yew Tree, we remain steadfast in our commitment to excellence for all by fostering a learning environment that is both intellectually challenging and emotionally nurturing for all pupils. Our curriculum is dynamic, inclusive, and firmly grounded in our core vision and values aiming to inspire a lifelong passion for learning while recognising and celebrating each child's unique individuality.

As a school we serve a highly diverse community with a large proportion of families identified as disadvantaged and ever-increasing numbers of children with SEND. In 24-25, 53% of the school cohort being in receipt of Pupil Premium and 44% registered as SEND, with 18.5% EHCPs. Alongside this we have seen a 9% increase in the number of learners with English as an additional language (EAL), with cohorts including 10 languages additional to English. These evolving demographics present both significant challenges and valuable opportunities for the school.

We continue to refine a high-quality, flexible, and inclusive curriculum that reflects the distinctiveness of our school community whilst at the same time providing a level of challenge for all learners. For pupils with significant and complex SEND, the curriculum continues to be carefully adapted to ensure that all pupils have every opportunity to meet personalised milestones.

In 2025, progress of pupils in EYFS was positive, relative to low baseline on entry and staff team are well-informed about children's next steps, contributing to steady improvement in GLD outcomes, with emerging positive progress in speech, language, and attention skills. Phonics outcomes were in line with Trust targets, with 96% of pupils leaving Y2 achieving expected outcomes. Strong progress is evident from starting points and continued work alongside the St John Vinney English Hub demonstrates continued improvements in teaching and learning of Phonics. Standards at the end of Key Stage 1 remain strong with children achieving 74% in Reading, 70% in Writing and 74% of children achieving ARE in Maths (17% greater depth). At KS2, a significant number of mainstream pupils, alongside those in DSP, had complex needs, with 13 pupils moving to Special School Provision for Secondary. End of KS2 outcomes for those remaining in the mainstream cohort demonstrate positive outcomes from their starting points.

The Academy's impact on the local community

Over the last year, Yew Tree has continued to support the local community and stakeholders and links have continued to be forged with the local community through:

- Offer of 30hr Nursery provision in place
- Continued work with Knowsley Council to use the 'Household Support Fund' and Foodbank vouchers to support families
- Involvement in Halewood Uniform Swap shop – Uniwise
- Increased family/community events – Reading engagement, Here We Are Community event, Halloween/Easter/Christmas Bingos etc
- Participation in Halewood Christmas choirs, alongside Knowsley Music Service, Halewood Library and Halewood Town Council for Christmas Light switch on
- Continuing strong links with Everton in the Community including full school day PE provision, as well as

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

- additional activities including Safer Internet, Anti Bullying and Anti Racism festivals and workshops. A particular favourite with pupils was American Football training with a member of the Chicago Bears.
- Fundraising for National and Local charities
- Parents' evening attendance showed that our families work closely with the school with an average attendance of over 80%.

Highlights and Successes

This year's highlights and successes include:

- Achievement of Communication Friendly Schools Award in EYFS
- Participation in Knowsley's Education Priority Area (EPA) to drive improvement in communication and language across EYFS - providing a wealth of CPD and resources in EYFS.
- Flagship for Inclusion reaccreditation through Inclusion Quality Mark (7th year)
- Achievement of Wellbeing Award for Schools 2024-28 and Healthy Schools Award (Bronze)
- All staff trained in Positive Behaviour
- Successful STEM activities across Science Week and beyond eg work alongside Scientists from John Moore's University Observatory team
- Successful development of Forest school ethos as weave within humanities curriculum
- Positive Trust Peer and Safeguarding Reviews across the year
- Successful LA Writing Moderation
- Many leaders across the school have completed and are currently undertaking a range of approved NPQs and all SLT members completed Leadership Coaching
- Two staff members continue in their roles as Trust Primary Improvement Leads

WESTON POINT PRIMARY ACADEMY

Academy Performance and Improving Outcomes

Weston Point Primary Academy is deeply committed to academic excellence and holistic development, ensuring every child, whether in mainstream classes or the Resource Base, has the opportunity to thrive. The school fosters an inclusive environment where students feel valued and supported, regardless of any barriers they may face. Recent investments in early years facilities, such as a mud kitchen, cycle track, and physical exercise apparatus, demonstrate the academy's dedication to active learning and outdoor play, which are vital for cognitive and social growth. Backed by the Wade Deacon Trust and local partners, these enhancements reflect a broader strategy of community collaboration and resource enrichment.

The Academy's impact on the local community

Now part of the Wade Deacon Trust as of January 2024, Weston Point Primary Academy has embraced a renewed commitment to inclusive education and continuous improvement. The school has focused on creating a nurturing environment where every child is supported to reach their full potential, regardless of barriers they may face westonpointprimary.co.uk.

Notably, the academy has strengthened its Resource Base provision, ensuring tailored support for pupils with special educational needs.

Highlights and Successes

This year's highlights and successes include:

- December saw the official opening of a new mud kitchen, physical exercise apparatus, a cycle track, and

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

fresh astroturf significantly improving the outdoor areas at the School. The area was officially opened by the Mayor of Halton.

- June saw the School welcomed families to explore its new outdoor facilities through a hands-on "Gruffalo Journey" in the woods.
- July saw the School celebrate a standout National School Sports Week with a visit from Team GB rower Emily Ford, who won bronze at the Paris 2024 Olympics.

a. Key performance indicators

Primary Performance Statistics:

Assessment	Statistic	Cohort	Trust Result
KS2 Reading, Writing & Maths Combined	% of pupils achieving expected standard	199	49%
KS2 Reading, Writing & Maths Combined	% of pupils achieving higher standard	199	6%
Reading	% of pupils achieving expected standard	199	62%
Reading	% of pupils achieving higher standard	199	23%
Writing	% of pupils achieving expected standard	199	68%
Writing	% of pupils achieving higher standard	199	12%
Maths	% of pupils achieving expected standard	199	60%
Maths	% of pupils achieving higher standard	199	13%
GPS	% of pupils achieving expected standard	199	59%
GPS	% of pupils achieving higher standard	199	17%
Science	% of pupils achieving expected standard	199	77%

Secondary Performance Statistics:

	2025 Performance Data			
	Wade Deacon High School	The Grange Academy	Hilside High School	Halwood Academy
Attainment 8	53.6	36.0	39.3	41.6
Attainment PP	41.7	30.1	32.3	35.0
Average Attainment maths	5.0	3.4	4.0	3.9
Average Attainment English	6.0	4.1	4.2	4.6
Average Attainment Ebacc	5.0	3.4	3.9	3.9
Average Attainment Open	5.5	3.6	3.8	4.3
£ 4+ maths	77.9%	47.2%	56.5%	59.7%
£ 5+ maths	63.7%	28.7%	42.0%	41.7%
£ 4+ English	89.0%	57.4%	61.1%	71.3%
£ 5+ English	83.3%	41.7%	49.6%	58.3%
£ 4+ maths and English	76.3%	39.1%	50.4%	56.1%
£ 5+ maths and English	62.1%	22.6%	34.4%	37.7%
£ 7+ maths and English	19.9%	3.5%	7.6%	5.8%

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

b. Going concern

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

The Trust is confident that the financial position reported within the financial statements to 31 August 2025 and the projections made within the Trusts 3-year financial budget projections give the Trust the financial scope to be able to respond to the challenges which the whole education sector will face over the coming years. The Trust has married a fiscally prudent strategy alongside a use of reserves programme targeted at School improvement to ensure that it maintains best value with public funds.

c. Promoting the success of the company

The Trust makes all decisions based upon the best interests not only of the Trust itself but all of its key stakeholders. The Trust Board are fully involved in key decision-making processes and utilise information both from the Trust senior management team but also the School Local Governing Bodies in all decision making processes.

The sector is strongly regulated by the Department of Education (DfE) as well as other key legislation and the Trust ensures that all regulatory requirements are considered in all aspects of work conducted by the Trust.

As noted earlier within this report the above approach is reflected in the achievements and performance of the Trust as well as noted earlier in how the Trust interacts with, customers suppliers and other key stakeholders.

Financial review

Financial Performance

The majority of the Trust and Academy income is obtained from the Department of Education (DfE) in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE in the period ended 31st August 2025 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Trust also received grants from the DfE and other organisations. In accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (SORP FRS102), such grants are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the restricted general fund and fixed asset fund. The restricted fixed asset fund balance is reduced by depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets concerned.

During the year ended 31 August 2025, total expenditure (excluding depreciation and actuarial pension adjustments) of £52,947,561 (2024: £48,613,469) was covered by recurrent grant income from the ESFA together with other incoming resources which totalled £53,987,553 (2024: £48,677,895). After transfers to capital funds of £615,895 (2024: £1,032,434), there is a net revenue surplus for the year of £424,097 (2024: deficit £968,008). Total funds carried forward amount to £68,510,432 (2024: £64,237,579) which include revenue funds of £5,296,387 (2024: £4,872,290). This is in line with the Trust's strategy to build and maintain adequate reserves.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

Strategic report (continued)

Ensuring Value for Money across the Trust and financial performance

During the year The Trust has provided a fully managed central services to its academies during the year. Each academy school pays a 'top slice' of their General Annual Grant income to The Trust's Central Services fund which pays for key staff, systems or services vital to the running of The Trust. This includes ensuring that wherever possible the Trust seeks best value across procurement and spending whilst also trying (within the prescribed framework) to support local providers and local businesses in order to support the wider local community.

The Trust continues to maintain a solid financial position moving forwards. Within the next 12 24 months there are a number of financial uncertainties facing the sector as a whole, most notably around potential funding constrictions with the increase in funding potentially not keeping pace with inflation pressures on all expenditure lines but most notably salaries, utility costs and under funding of SEN requirements.

The Trust is in a strong position to mitigate these with a strong reserves position and long term fixed contracts already in place in response to rising costs of utility and other areas of expenditure.

a. Reserves policy

The Trustees and Governors review the level of reserves 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 the reserves. The Trust's current level of revenue reserves (total reserves less the amounts held in fixed asset reserve and the pension fund reserve) is £5,296,387 (2024: £4,872,290).

The Trustees have decided wherever possible to adopt a prudent approach to reserves and aim to build a group reserve of designated funds to safeguard against unforeseen circumstances, capital improvements or developments and other emergencies. This is sound commercial practice designed to safeguard the quality of education received at the academies within the Trust. The current financial position of the Trust is testament to this approach.

In addition, the net liability due to the Trust's participation in the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) amounts to £468,000 (2024: £4,034,000). 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. This guarantee provides comfort to the Trustees in the unlikely event of an Academy closure.

The free reserves of the Trust are £1,514,687 (2024: £1,937,579).

Utilisation of the surplus funds

The Trust has supplemented an element of its surplus to support projects using the schools' capital funding allocation. The Trust has undertaken a large capital project at Whsiton Willis Primary School (in conjunction with Knowsley Metropolitan Council) being the restructuring of classroom space in order to increase their capacity following a request from the LEA to provide additional places. This can be done as a result of careful financial management of the Trust and the Trust's ongoing quest to seek value for money from public funds.

There are financial challenges ahead across the whole sector and the reserves held by the Trust provide the support needed to rise to these challenges whilst continuing to provide the very best for our pupils.

Although the Trust does not formally adopt a 'GAG pooling' policy the CEO and Principals work together to identify a use of reserves policy which each School contributes to based upon current reserve levels. These 'earmarked' funds are then redistributed by the Lead Principals to the areas of greatest need within the Trust.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

This therefore allows for focussed interventions across the Trust in areas such as over supply of staffing to improve outcomes and targeted measures to improve areas such as attendance.

b. Investment policy

In accordance with the Articles of Association, the Trustees can deposit or invest funds not immediately required. It has been decided that cash balances are to be safeguarded by investing them in interest bearing current and deposit accounts with HSBC, a recognised sound commercial bank.

In recent years the levels of returns available for depositing funds have never created a compelling argument to invest large sums in long term deposits however recent increases in the UK base rate of interest will allow the Trust to potentially take advantage of deposit activity to generate additional funds.

c. Principal risks and uncertainties

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which each academy and the overall Trust is exposed, those relating to the specific teaching, provision of facilities and other operational areas of each academy and its finances. Each academy has an effective system of internal financial controls, and this is explained in more detail in the Governance Statement.

The main categories of risks that each academy is exposed to are summarised below. For each of these risks the probability, impact and seriousness have been considered together with appropriate action and avoidance plans. The Board has classified all its risks into categories and reviews the risk register at each year:

Strategic and Reputational – This covers unfavourable Ofsted reports, risk of uncontrollable events and insufficient demand for academy services, competition from other schools with similar objects and little scope for differentiation, and also includes the capacity of existing buildings to deliver teaching and learning to students.

Operational risks – These are the risks associated with appointing the right quality staff and Governors to lead the organisation and the individual academies. These also cover day to day operation of academies, including estate safety and management, ensuring each academy's building is fit for purpose and meets the needs of students and staff.

Compliance risk – The risks in connection with meeting statutory requirements relating to employment, Health & Safety and those set by the DfE.

Finance risk – The Board monitors the financial risk associated with managing a large organisation that balances local autonomy with the need to establish good financial controls. There are also risks in connection with the deficit on the Local Government Pension Scheme, although the Directors are comfortable with the current level of employer contributions the academies are required to pay.

In respect of compliance with relevant Health and Safety and estate management protocols the Trust engages the services of an independent third party entity to perform regular reviews of compliance in all areas across the estate. The work undertaken includes annual audits of all School sites and monthly School visits providing premises and activity related risk assessments which are reported back to the Audit & Compliance Committee annually, or immediately if an issue is noted which requires remedial work.

Financial and Risk Management Objectives and Policies

The main financial risks are mitigated through the employment of sound financial management and internal control processes. Balanced budgets are set for each of the Academies within the Trust and limited budgets are further delegated to departments and faculties. Actual performance against agreed budgets is closely monitored by the Trust's central finance team and via regular (termly) meetings of the finance committee of each LGB.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

Bank and cash reconciliations are carried out routinely and signed by the authorised officers of the Trust's central finance team.

All orders and payments are signed off by the finance team with appropriate segregation of duties in place. An exercise to ensure fixed asset registers are in place is ongoing and there are processes in place for the acquisition, adaptation and disposal of assets. Payroll is outsourced and checked by more than one individual each month. The appropriateness and integrity of internal controls is assessed and reported to the Trustees by the responsible officer and external auditors.

The security of data is administered by an in house team of IT professionals. Remaining risks are mitigated to a large extent via comprehensive insurance policies.

d. Utilisation of the surplus funds

Across the Trust behaviour management and Special Educational Needs (SEN) responses are currently some of the most challenging aspects. The Trust is committed to providing financial support to the Schools in excess of available funding to allow them to deal with these challenges and maintain a high quality educational output.

Although the Trust does not formally adopt a 'GAG pooling' policy the CEO and Principals work together to identify a use of reserves policy which each School contributes to based upon current reserve levels. These 'earmarked' funds are managed by the CEO and Lead Principals and distributed as educational support across the Trust where deemed necessary.

Fundraising

The Trust in its approach to fundraising follows undertakes the following:

- Voluntary Contributions - outlined in its charging and remissions policy Section 5, Voluntary contributions can be invited from parents towards the cost of the academy activities which are related to the life and work of the academy. Such contributions will be genuinely voluntary and no child whose parents feel unable to contribute will be treated differently from the rest.
- Charitable fundraising takes place at each school for charities nominated at each school.
- Other school organised events (fete's, bingo etc.) are undertaken through voluntary donations of prizes and time. Income raised is used to purchase resources that the school identify
- All charity and school fundraising is undertaken internally and we do not currently make use of commercial participators/professional fundraisers.
- All internal fundraising is monitored and reviewed with the Trust audit systems. Any complaints would be reviewed in line with the Trust complaints policy.
- All fundraising events are voluntary and undertaken in a manner to support local and national charities and for school based events to also support proactive community engagement.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

Streamlined energy and carbon reporting

Quantification and reporting methodology

The 2019 UK Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines and the GHG Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard (revised edition) were followed. The 2025 UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting were used in emission calculations as these relate to the majority of the reporting period. The report has been reviewed independently by Zenergi Limited (trading as Briar Consulting Engineers Limited).

Electricity and gas consumption were compiled from invoice records. Where consumption data was unavailable, Display Energy Certificates (DECs) were used to provide a representative estimate. Although some DEC data falls slightly outside of the reporting period, it covers a full twelve-month cycle and is considered the most reliable representation for actual consumption. Where gaps in data were identified, the direct comparison technique has been applied as well as pro-rata estimations. During the reporting period, a small number of meters were rebilled by the energy supplier. In some cases, the re-billed data resulted in a negative monthly consumption figure. As negative consumption does not represent actual usage, these figures have been treated as zero for reporting purposes and have been noted on the carbon dashboard provided with this report. This approach ensures that reported energy consumption and associated emissions accurately reflect actual usage in the current reporting year. Mileage was used to calculate energy and emissions from fleet vehicles and grey fleet. Gross calorific values were used except for mileage energy calculations as per Government GHG Conversion Factors.

The emissions are divided into mandatory emissions according to the 2018 Regulations, then further divided into the direct combustion of fuels and the operation of facilities (scope 1), indirect emissions from purchased electricity (scope 2) and further indirect emissions that occur as a consequence of company activities but occur from sources not owned or controlled by the organisation (scope 3).

Breakdown of energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh):

Energy type	2023/24	2024/25
Mandatory:		
Gas	5,218,498	5,554,750
Purchased electricity from the grid	3,444,162	3,645,838
Transport fuel	14,819	16,731
Total energy (mandatory)	8,677,479	9,217,319

Breakdown of emissions associated with the reported energy use (tCO₂e):

Emission source	2023/24	2024/25
Mandatory:		
Scope 1		
Gas	954.5	1,016.3
Trust-owned vehicles (minibuses)	2.3	2.3
Scope 2		
Purchased electricity (location-based)	713.1	645.3
Scope 3		
Category 6: Business travel (grey fleet)	1.4	1.9
Total gross emissions (mandatory)	1,671.3	1,665.8

Note: figures may not sum due to rounding

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

Streamlined energy and carbon reporting (continued)

Intensity ratio

Two intensity ratios are reported showing mandatory emissions (tCO₂e) per pupil and per square meter of floor area. Emissions per pupil is the recommended ratio for the sector, ensuring consistency and comparability, with pupil numbers based on the Autumn 2024 census. Emissions per square meter floor area are reported to reflect the energy efficiency of the buildings, which are the primary source of emissions.

Intensity ratios	2023/24	2024/25
Mandatory emissions only:		
Tonnes of CO ₂ e per pupil	0.289	0.286
Tonnes of CO ₂ e per square meter floor area	0.028	0.028

Energy efficiency action during current financial year

In the reporting period, September 2024 – August 2025, the Trust has taken the following energy efficiency actions:

- **LED Lighting Upgrades:** All schools within the Trust have been fitted with LED lighting, funded through a government energy efficiency grant.
- **Heating and Control Systems:** A programme of boiler replacements was completed across five of its schools, and three schools installed new, more efficient building management systems (BMS).
- **Renewable Energy Exploration:** The Trust is assessing the feasibility of installing solar panels on all eligible sites over the next few years.

At present, comparative data to quantify the impact of these initiatives is not available. However, the Trust remains committed to reducing its carbon footprint and continues to look out for new energy saving and funding opportunities going forward.

Plans for future periods

Following a period of consolidation the Trust is actively seeking opportunities to welcome new Academies into the Trust. Any prospective new Academies must be a strategic fit alongside the ethos and expertise currently within the Trust. Our expansion plans focus on growing their network of schools while maintaining high standards of education and support. The Trust aims to integrate new schools into their collaborative framework, ensuring each institution benefits from shared resources, best practices, and professional development opportunities. The Trust is committed to fostering strong leadership and governance in new member schools, enhancing educational outcomes, and building a cohesive community that prioritises student achievement and well-being. Through strategic partnerships and a focus on continuous improvement, Wade Deacon Trust aspires to be the leading educational provider in their region.

Wade Deacon Trust has outlined a comprehensive strategic plan aimed at fostering a supportive and collaborative environment for its academies. The Trust emphasises high expectations, school improvement, and continuous professional development to ensure all pupils can reach their full potential. This approach is rooted in a commitment to excellence, with exceptional teaching and learning at the core of their mission. Each school within the Trust is given a voice in key decisions through transparent governance, ensuring that the unique needs and stages of development of each institution are respected and addressed.

Looking ahead, the Trust plans to enhance its focus on personalised learning programs that engage every child and enable them to achieve their highest potential. This includes developing a stimulating curriculum that encourages creativity, problem-solving, resilience, and collaboration. The Trust aims to be recognised for

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

Plans for future periods (continued)

excellence by the community, ensuring that pupils not only achieve well but also thrive in a supportive environment. They are committed to strong leadership, continuous improvement, and fostering a culture of high aspirations and expectations for the future.

Furthermore, Wade Deacon Trust is dedicated to building strong partnerships and collaboration both within and outside the Trust. They plan to share best practices and ideas, providing and receiving support from other schools and wider partnerships. This collaborative approach extends to engaging with parents, carers, and agencies to support pupil progress, well-being, and achievement. By focusing on these strategic priorities, the Trust aims to be the education provider of choice, the employer of choice, and the partner of choice in their communities.

The Trust has a collaborative working approach across all of its academies and therefore has the ability to utilise resources across the whole Trust where required. The Trust is well positioned to deal with the expected financial challenges to all public sector bodies set out by the new Government in the Budget of October 2024 including dealing with the ongoing cost of living crisis and is looking where possible to support staff, students and their families as part of the local community. The Trust regularly updates its Curriculum Led Financial planning in order to ensure it is proactively managing staffing costs and to ensure that value money is at the forefront of decision making.

The Trust is confident that the financial position reported within the financial statements to 31 August 2025 and the projections made within the Trust's 3 year financial budget projections give the Trust the financial scope to be able to respond to the challenges which the whole education sector will face as a result of the increasing costs of staffing, goods and services.

Disclosure of information to auditors

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

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

The auditors, WR Partners, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

The Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 10 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



P Fowler
(Chair of Trustees)

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Scope of responsibility

As Trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Wade Deacon 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 officer, 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 Wade Deacon Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. The accounting officer is also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' report and in the Statement of trustees' responsibilities.

Attendance records for the trustees during the year to 31st August 2025 for meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Paul Fowler, Chair	5	5
Colin McLeod	5	5
Nicholas McGee	4	5
Christine Marsland	5	5
Derek Darlington	4	5
Ian Hann	5	5
Karen Highcock	5	5
Mary Murphy	4	4
John Price	4	5

The main responsibilities of the Board and issues dealt with during the year were as follows:

- Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Hold the executive to account for the educational performance of the trust's academies and their pupils, and the performance management of staff;
- Oversee the financial performance of the trust and make sure its money is well spent;
- Provide a link to local School Governing bodies who meet on a regular basis to add an additional layer of governance challenge to the Trust Executive Team.

The Trust completed the DfE's School resource management self-assessment checklist during the year.

The checklist helps governing bodies and trust boards to:

- check they have appropriate financial management and governance arrangements;
- check they are meeting the right standards to achieve a good level of financial health and resource management;
- Identify areas for change to make sure resources are used to support high-quality teaching and the best education outcomes for pupils.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Governance (continued)

The outcomes of the review were very positive. The Trust Board was subject to significant change just over two years ago. A significant amount of work was undertaken in ensuring that the Board structure was such that it was able to challenge and lead the Trust to ensure that it meets its strategic objectives.

The Audit & Compliance Committee, which is a committee of the Trust Board, is responsible for overseeing the financial affairs of the Academy and reporting to the Trust Board. The Audit & Compliance Committee meets at least once a term or more frequently should the need arise. During the year to 31 August 2025 the Committee met formally 4 times.

In relation to the Audit & Compliance Committee the main responsibilities and issues dealt with during the year were as follows:

- The initial review and detailed analysis of the annual budget;
- The regular monitoring of actual expenditure and income against budget;
- Ensuring the annual financial statements are produced in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; the Charities SORP, the Academies Accounts Direction and other guidance issued by the DfE;
- Ensuring that all of the financial returns required by the DfE are correctly prepared and submitted on time;
- Capital project monitoring, procurement and reporting;
- Authorising changes to the Trust's personnel establishment;
- Reviewing the reports of the internal auditors and ensuring all responsible officer requirements are met.

Committee Member	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Colin McLeod	4	4
Karen Highcock	4	4
John Price	2	2

Review of value for money

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

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

- The economic, efficient and effective use of all resources to produce better educational results.
- The avoidance of waste and extravagance.
- The prudent and economical administration of the organisation.
- The establishment and maintenance of a system of financial governance, including sound internal spending controls, keeping up to date financial records, continuous financial monitoring and timely reporting.
- Ensuring all financial transactions represent value for money.
- Ensuring that the Trust produces, manages and acts upon recommendations from property and health and safety risk assessments produced by competent parties.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of academy 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 Wade Deacon Trust for the period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts.

The Trust maintains a detailed risk register and the controls in place to mitigate risk are reviewed on a regular basis in line with regulatory requirements and agreed good practice across the sector. The controls that the Trust maintains ensures that risks are managed as far as possible.

Capacity to handle risk

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

The risk and control framework

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the board of trustees;
- regular reviews by the finance and 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 to buy-in an internal audit service as detailed below.

Following the conclusion of a three-year internal audit provision by Beever and Struthers in 2024 the Board of Trustees felt that internal scrutiny that this was providing was not producing reports which were focusing correctly upon the risks identified in the risk register. The Audit and Compliance Committee has decided to utilise individually appointed experts to provide internal scrutiny upon key areas of risk identified with the Trust risk register. Each individual report would be conducted by industry experts (external to the Trust) to ensure that this was an independent review of the areas or risk identified for additional scrutiny.

The checks carried out in the current period included:

- IT and Cyber Security
- Following up on the Financial Benchmarking from last years SRMA visit

The internal scrutiny reports undertaken each year are determined based upon consideration of the Trust Risk register and the key areas identified by the Audit and Compliance Committee.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

The risk and control framework (continued)

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

The internal audit reports provided noted some management actions in each area to undertake in order to further improve the systems and controls in place and the Senior Leadership Team are actioning all of the points raised in order to ensure improved systems and controls in these areas.

Review of effectiveness

As accounting officer, Mr G Kelly has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:

- The work of the internal scrutiny provider;
- The work of the external auditor;
- The financial management and governance self assessment process;
- The work of the senior leaders and managers within the Academy Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

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

Conclusion

Based on the advice of the Audit and Compliance 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 and signed on their behalf by:



P Fowler
Chair of Trustees
Date: 10 December 2025



G Kelly
Accounting Officer

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

As accounting officer of Wade Deacon Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Board of Trustees and the Department of Education (DfE) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2024, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

I confirm that I and the academy trust's Board of Trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the academy trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the academy trust's funding agreement and the Academy Trust Handbook 2024.

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



G Kelly
Accounting Officer
Date: 10 December 2025

WADE DEACON 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 10 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



P Fowler
(Chair of Trustees)

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF WADE DEACON TRUST

Opinion

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

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

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.

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

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF WADE DEACON TRUST (CONTINUED)

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.

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.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF WADE DEACON TRUST (CONTINUED)

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

We reviewed the susceptibility of the Trust's financial statements to material misstatement and identified the principal risks, implementing a series of testing procedures to provide us with sufficient comfort to issue our opinion.

We reviewed the Trust's regulatory environment to ensure we could conclude that it had acted in accordance with the framework relevant to the Trust and its environment and identify any instances of non-compliance.

We also assessed the Trust's internal control procedures to ensure we could appropriately scrutinise these controls and establish whether our understanding of the control environment was sufficient to supplement our additional testing procedures.

The engagement team consisted of a team that the engagement partner believes is equipped with the relevant level of technical and Trust awareness to carry out our work to the required standard.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Academy'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.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF WADE DEACON TRUST (CONTINUED)



Fran Johnson BSc BFP FCA (Senior statutory auditor)

for and on behalf of
WR Partners

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors

3, Royal Court

Gadbrook Park

Northwich

Cheshire

CW9 7UT

10 December 2025

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO WADE DEACON TRUST AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 23 June 2025 and further to the requirements of the Department for Education (DfE) as included in the extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts 2024 to 2025, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether anything has come to our attention that would suggest, in all material respects, the expenditure disbursed and income received by Wade Deacon 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 Wade Deacon 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 Wade Deacon 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 Wade Deacon Trust and the Secretary of State for Education, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Wade Deacon Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Wade Deacon Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 27 February 2013 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2024, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Approach

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

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

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

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

In drawing our conclusion we have carried out the following programme of work:-

Reviewed all the "Musts" from the Academies Handbook 2024,

Reviewed changes to the Academies Handbook 2024 to ensure relevant procedures have been updated.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO WADE
DEACON TRUST AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION (CONTINUED)**

Tested all sources of expenditure to ensure resources correctly used in accordance with the terms of the funding agreement.

In line with the Framework and guide for external auditors and reporting accountants of academy trusts issued April 2025, we have not performed any additional procedures regarding the Trust's compliance with safeguarding, health and safety and estates management.

Conclusion

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



Reporting Accountant
WR Partners
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors

Date: 10 December 2025

WADE DEACON 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 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants:	3					
Transfers on Conversion		-	-	-	-	4,569,538
Other donations and capital grants		124,259	-	2,470,570	2,594,829	2,123,514
Other trading activities		68,449	2,169,933	-	2,238,382	1,320,570
Investments	6	71,696	-	-	71,696	32,009
Charitable activities		-	51,553,216	-	51,553,216	47,179,818
Total income		264,404	53,723,149	2,470,570	56,458,123	55,225,449
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities		-	52,306,561	2,803,709	55,110,270	51,037,518
Total expenditure		-	52,306,561	2,803,709	55,110,270	51,037,518
Net income/(expenditure)		264,404	1,416,588	(333,139)	1,347,853	4,187,931
Transfers between funds	17	(615,895)	-	615,895	-	-
Total transfers		(615,895)	-	615,895	-	-
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)		(351,491)	1,416,588	282,756	1,347,853	4,187,931
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	24	-	6,656,000	-	6,656,000	42,000
Pension surplus not recognised	24	-	(3,731,000)	-	(3,731,000)	(1,971,000)
Net movement in funds		(351,491)	4,341,588	282,756	4,272,853	2,258,931
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		1,937,874	(1,099,584)	63,399,289	64,237,579	61,978,648
Net movement in funds		(351,491)	4,341,588	282,756	4,272,853	2,258,931
Total funds carried forward		1,586,383	3,242,004	63,682,045	68,510,432	64,237,579

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

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

The notes on pages 45 to 70 form part of these financial statements.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 08278808

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	14	61,967,934	62,175,526
		<u>61,967,934</u>	<u>62,175,526</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	15	2,306,787	2,162,241
Cash at bank and in hand		6,065,690	5,040,234
		<u>8,372,477</u>	<u>7,202,475</u>
Current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(1,361,979)	(1,106,422)
Net current assets		<u>7,010,498</u>	6,096,053
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>68,978,432</u>	68,271,579
Net assets excluding pension liability		<u>68,978,432</u>	68,271,579
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	24	(468,000)	(4,034,000)
Total net assets		<u><u>68,510,432</u></u>	<u><u>64,237,579</u></u>
Funds of the Academy			
Restricted funds:			
Fixed asset funds	17	63,682,045	63,399,289
Restricted income funds	17	3,710,004	2,934,416
Restricted funds excluding pension asset	17	67,392,049	66,333,705
Pension reserve	17	(468,000)	(4,034,000)
Total restricted funds	17	<u>66,924,049</u>	62,299,705
Unrestricted income funds	17	1,586,383	1,937,874
Total funds		<u><u>68,510,432</u></u>	<u><u>64,237,579</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 40 to 70 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 10 December 2025 and are signed on their behalf, by:

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 08278808

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025



P Fowler
(Chair of Trustees)

The notes on pages 45 to 70 form part of these financial statements.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	19	1,127,681	(622,948)
Cash flows from investing activities	21	(102,225)	(884,658)
Cash flows from financing activities	20	-	(7,490)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		1,025,456	(1,515,096)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		5,040,234	6,555,330
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	22, 23	6,065,690	5,040,234

The notes on pages 45 to 70 form part of these financial statements

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

1. Accounting policies

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

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

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

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 charitable company to continue as a going concern. The Trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

1.3 Income

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

• **Grants**

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

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

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

• **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.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.3 Income (continued)

- **Other income**

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

- **Donated goods, facilities and services**

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

- **Transfer on conversion**

Where assets and liabilities are received by the Academy 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. An equal amount of income is recognised as a transfer on conversion within 'Income from Donations and Capital Grants' to the net assets received.

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.5 Interest receivable

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

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.6 Taxation

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

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

1.7 Tangible fixed assets

Assets costing £500 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

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

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Land and Buildings	-	2% on cost
Fixtures, Fittings and Equipment	-	20% on cost and 10% on cost
Assets under construction	-	Not depreciated
Computer equipment	-	20% on cost and 10% on cost
Motor vehicles	-	25% on cost

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

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

1.8 Leased Assets

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

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.9 Liabilities

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

1.10 Financial instruments

The academy trust 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. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

1.11 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 and the assets are held separately from those of the academy trust.

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

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

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.11 Pensions (continued)

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

1.12 Fund accounting

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

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

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

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

2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

The Academy 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 24, 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.

Critical areas of judgment:

The Cheshire LGPS pension fund has reported a funding surplus at 31 August 2025. FRS102 section 28.22 states that a plan surplus can be recognised only to the extent an entity is able to recover the surplus, either through reduced contributions in the future, or refunds from the scheme. The Trustees consider there is no evidence to show reduced contributions or refunds are likely to materialise in the foreseeable future. For the reason a pension ceiling adjustment of £3,731,000 (2024: £1,971,000 has been applied to reduce the surplus to £nil. The total asset ceiling adjustment applied to the Cheshire LGPS asset at 31 August 2025 is £6,151,000.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

3. Income from donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Donations	124,259	-	-	124,259	4,684,758
Grants	-	-	2,470,570	2,470,570	2,008,294
	<u>124,259</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,470,570</u>	<u>2,594,829</u>	<u>6,693,052</u>
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u>139,030</u>	<u>65,871</u>	<u>6,488,151</u>	<u>6,693,052</u>	

4. Funding for the Academy's charitable activities

	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Educational operations			
DfE grants			
General annual grant (GAG)	40,859,030	40,859,030	37,267,426
Other DfE grants			
DfE - pupil premium	2,993,956	2,993,956	2,829,785
DfE - free school meals	159,275	159,275	151,523
Other DfE grants	3,684,344	3,684,344	3,424,816
	<u>47,696,605</u>	<u>47,696,605</u>	<u>43,673,550</u>
Other Government grants			
Other local authority grants	3,810,392	3,810,392	3,368,890
Other government grants	46,219	46,219	137,378
	<u>3,856,611</u>	<u>3,856,611</u>	<u>3,506,268</u>
Total Educational operations	<u>51,553,216</u>	<u>51,553,216</u>	<u>47,179,818</u>

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

5. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Hire of facilities	68,449	-	68,449	149,839
Income from trading activities	-	248,678	248,678	613,104
Income from other charitable activities	-	1,921,255	1,921,255	557,627
Total 2025	68,449	2,169,933	2,238,382	1,320,570
<i>Total 2024</i>	<i>233,274</i>	<i>1,087,296</i>	<i>1,320,570</i>	

6. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Interest receivable	71,696	71,696	32,009
<i>Total 2024</i>	<i>32,009</i>	<i>32,009</i>	

7. Expenditure

	Staff Costs 2025 £	Premises 2025 £	Other 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Educational operations:					
Direct costs	34,775,988	2,225,000	3,132,288	40,133,276	36,958,039
Allocated support costs	4,894,195	1,931,982	8,150,817	14,976,994	14,079,479
	<u>39,670,183</u>	<u>4,156,982</u>	<u>11,283,105</u>	<u>55,110,270</u>	<u>51,037,518</u>
<i>Total 2024</i>	<i>36,553,457</i>	<i>2,814,837</i>	<i>11,669,224</i>	<i>51,037,518</i>	

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2025 £	Support costs 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Educational operations	40,133,276	14,976,994	55,110,270	51,037,518
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u>36,958,039</u>	<u>14,079,479</u>	<u>51,037,518</u>	

Analysis of support costs

	Educational operations 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Staff costs	5,546,112	5,546,112	5,244,788
Depreciation	530,387	530,387	553,722
Technology costs	112,345	112,345	121,273
Other staff costs	270,406	270,406	300,393
Other costs	640,688	640,688	724,363
Rates	230,178	230,178	224,173
Energy	985,202	985,202	1,185,629
Insurance	146,282	146,282	141,882
Maintenance of premises	1,235,708	1,235,708	1,193,867
Operating leases	66,651	66,651	46,562
Security	23,768	23,768	21,696
Transport	7,650	7,650	17,054
Catering	1,964,613	1,964,613	1,248,130
Rent (including PFI charges)	2,973,970	2,973,970	2,820,401
Legal and professional	205,901	205,901	193,222
Governance costs	37,133	37,133	42,324
	<u>14,976,994</u>	<u>14,976,994</u>	<u>14,079,479</u>
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u>14,079,479</u>	<u>14,079,479</u>	

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

9. Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2025 £	2024 £
Operating lease rentals	66,651	48,008
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	2,780,387	2,768,609
PFI charges	2,973,970	2,820,401
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	10,037
Fees paid to auditors for:		
- audit	25,520	23,415
- other services	4,980	3,130
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	(125,000)	106,000
	37,049,635	33,603,489

10. Staff

a. Staff costs and employee benefits

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	27,437,981	25,330,259
Social security costs	3,155,622	2,588,708
Pension costs	6,456,032	5,684,522
	37,049,635	33,603,489
Agency staff costs	2,580,045	2,874,214
Staff restructuring	40,503	75,754
	39,670,183	36,553,457

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

	2025 £	2024 £
Severance payments	40,503	75,754
	40,503	75,754

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

10. Staff (continued)

b. Severance payments

The Academy paid 4 severance payments in the year, disclosed in the following bands:

	2025 No.
£0 - £25,000	4

c. Staff numbers

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

	2025 No.	<i>2024 No.</i>
Teachers and teaching support	560	<i>561</i>
Administration and support	212	<i>194</i>
Management	14	<i>14</i>
	786	<i>769</i>

d. Higher paid staff

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

	2025 No.	<i>2024 No.</i>
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	34	<i>31</i>
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	20	<i>12</i>
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	13	<i>9</i>
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	2	<i>4</i>
In the band £100,001 - £110,000	2	<i>2</i>
In the band £110,001 - £120,000	1	<i>-</i>
In the band £120,001 - £130,000	1	<i>1</i>
In the band £130,001 - £140,000	2	<i>-</i>
In the band £140,001 - £150,000	-	<i>2</i>
In the band £150,001 - £160,000	2	<i>-</i>

e. 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 employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy was £1,921,594 (2024 - £1,633,061).

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

10. Staff (continued)

e. Key management personnel (continued)

11. Central services

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

- Human Resources
- Financial Services
- Legal Services
- Educational Support Services

The Academy charges for these services on the following basis:

- 4% of GAG income.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
The Grange Academy	341,149	293,864
Whiston Willis Primary Academy	67,540	61,730
Wade Deacon High School	417,034	392,543
Yew Tree Primary Academy	60,623	51,697
Hillside High School	218,436	196,016
Widnes Academy	33,605	33,229
Sylvester Primary Academy	55,826	49,356
Halewood Academy	411,196	373,905
Weston Point Primary Academy	28,953	21,878
Total	1,634,362	1,474,218

12. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

There are no Trustees who receive remuneration or other benefits from employment within the academy.

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

13. Trustees' and Officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the Academy has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £5,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2025 was £2,420 (2024 - £2,420). The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

14. Tangible fixed assets

	Long leasehold £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost or valuation					
At 1 September 2024	66,914,326	8,977,700	6,758,791	137,488	82,788,305
Additions	1,355,480	693,644	523,671	-	2,572,795
Disposals	-	(8,000)	(551,748)	(5,000)	(564,748)
At 31 August 2025	<u>68,269,806</u>	<u>9,663,344</u>	<u>6,730,714</u>	<u>132,488</u>	<u>84,796,352</u>
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2024	11,276,458	5,432,358	3,823,409	80,554	20,612,779
Charge for the year	1,284,115	778,148	694,282	23,842	2,780,387
On disposals	-	(8,000)	(551,748)	(5,000)	(564,748)
At 31 August 2025	<u>12,560,573</u>	<u>6,202,506</u>	<u>3,965,943</u>	<u>99,396</u>	<u>22,828,418</u>
Net book value					
At 31 August 2025	<u><u>55,709,233</u></u>	<u><u>3,460,838</u></u>	<u><u>2,764,771</u></u>	<u><u>33,092</u></u>	<u><u>61,967,934</u></u>
At 31 August 2024	<u><u>55,637,868</u></u>	<u><u>3,545,342</u></u>	<u><u>2,935,382</u></u>	<u><u>56,934</u></u>	<u><u>62,175,526</u></u>

Long leasehold includes land of £1,587,000 which is not depreciated.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

15. Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	464,012	221,707
Other debtors	696,419	680,047
Prepayments and accrued income	1,146,356	1,260,487
	2,306,787	2,162,241
	2,306,787	2,162,241

16. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	848,690	537,462
Other creditors	14,455	5,447
Accruals and deferred income	498,834	563,513
	1,361,979	1,106,422
	1,361,979	1,106,422
	2025 £	2024 £
Deferred income at 1 September 2024	173,440	192,629
Resources deferred during the year	166,022	173,440
Amounts released from previous periods	(173,440)	(192,629)
	166,022	173,440
	166,022	173,440

Deferred income includes future funding in respect of UIFSM, early years teachers' pay and pension grants and non domestic rates claims.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

17. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 September 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2025 £
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds	1,937,874	264,404	-	(615,895)	-	1,586,383
Restricted general funds						
	Balance at 1 September 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2025 £
General annual grant	-	40,859,030	(40,859,030)	-	-	-
Pupil premium	-	3,051,288	(3,051,288)	-	-	-
UIFSM	-	159,275	(159,275)	-	-	-
Other restricted funds	2,934,416	9,653,556	(8,877,968)	-	-	3,710,004
Pension reserve	(4,034,000)	-	641,000	-	2,925,000	(468,000)
	<u>(1,099,584)</u>	<u>53,723,149</u>	<u>(52,306,561)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,925,000</u>	<u>3,242,004</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds						
DfE group capital grants	63,399,289	2,470,570	(2,803,709)	615,895	-	63,682,045
Total Restricted funds	<u>62,299,705</u>	<u>56,193,719</u>	<u>(55,110,270)</u>	<u>615,895</u>	<u>2,925,000</u>	<u>66,924,049</u>
Total funds	<u><u>64,237,579</u></u>	<u><u>56,458,123</u></u>	<u><u>(55,110,270)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>2,925,000</u></u>	<u><u>68,510,432</u></u>

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

17. Statement of funds (continued)

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

General fund

Represents amounts derived from the hire of facilities, other trading activities and investment income.

General Annual Grant

This represents the balance remaining from core funding provided by the DfE for the schools core educational activities.

Other Restricted General Funds

This represents the balance remaining from other funding provided by the DfE and local authorities for the academy trust's educational activities.

Pupil Premium

Pupil premium is funding to improve education outcomes for disadvantaged pupils.

UIFSM

Universal infant free school meals (UIFSM) provides funding for all government funded schools to offer free school meals to pupils in reception, year 1, and year 2.

Pension Reserve

This is the Local Government Pension Scheme deficit attributable to the school and is derived from the report of the actuary produced as at 31 August 2025.

Fixed Asset Restricted Funds

This represents the value of fixed assets shown on the balance sheet plus any other assets and liabilities (including cash) relating to the Trust's capital projects. Transfers between restricted and fixed asset funds represent authorised purchases of fixed assets from revenue funds.

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.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

17. Statement of funds (continued)

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

	<i>Balance at 1 September 2023 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Transfers in/out £</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses) £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 August 2024 £</i>
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds	2,367,191	603,117	-	(1,032,434)	-	1,937,874
Restricted general funds						
General annual grant	-	37,267,426	(37,267,426)	-	-	-
Other DfE grants	1,964,630	3,485,579	(5,450,209)	-	-	-
Pupil premium	-	2,829,785	(2,829,785)	-	-	-
UIFSM	-	156,631	(156,631)	-	-	-
Other restricted funds	1,508,477	4,394,760	(2,968,821)	-	-	2,934,416
Pension reserve	(2,519,000)	-	414,000	-	(1,929,000)	(4,034,000)
	<u>954,107</u>	<u>48,134,181</u>	<u>(48,258,872)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,929,000)</u>	<u>(1,099,584)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds						
DfE group capital grants	58,657,350	6,488,151	(2,778,646)	1,032,434	-	63,399,289
Total Restricted funds	<u>59,611,457</u>	<u>54,622,332</u>	<u>(51,037,518)</u>	<u>1,032,434</u>	<u>(1,929,000)</u>	<u>62,299,705</u>
Total funds	<u><u>61,978,648</u></u>	<u><u>55,225,449</u></u>	<u><u>(51,037,518)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>(1,929,000)</u></u>	<u><u>64,237,579</u></u>

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

17. Statement of funds (continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2025 were allocated as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Wade Deacon High School	1,585,109	1,661,127
Hillside High School	26,735	84,100
Widnes Academy	153,629	55,216
Halewood Academy	996,144	1,186,384
The Grange Academy	1,949,708	1,650,909
Sylvester Primary Academy	94,759	7,668
Whiston Willis Primary Academy	132,995	29,164
Yew Tree Primary Academy	111,525	36,462
Central Services	85,323	6,184
Weston Point Primary Academy	160,460	155,076
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve	5,296,387	4,872,290
Restricted fixed asset fund	63,682,045	63,399,289
Pension reserve	(468,000)	(4,034,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	68,510,432	64,237,579
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

17. 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 £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Wade Deacon High School	9,183,184	1,025,531	572,010	2,260,759	13,041,484	11,603,984
Hillside High School	4,476,898	783,275	302,121	1,041,931	6,604,225	5,997,889
Widnes Academy	637,975	112,290	36,793	197,692	984,750	1,088,624
Halewood Academy	7,273,772	717,194	937,964	2,510,844	11,439,774	10,393,772
The Grange Academy	7,682,117	537,665	494,778	2,058,546	10,773,106	10,239,752
Sylvester Primary Academy	1,358,154	230,521	50,688	342,087	1,981,450	1,935,050
Whiston Willis Primary Academy	1,774,927	165,489	66,713	351,745	2,358,874	2,226,155
Yew Tree Primary Academy	1,830,480	204,567	52,062	311,670	2,398,779	2,369,185
Central Services	561,351	674,305	107,400	390,164	1,733,220	1,809,441
Weston Point Primary Academy	710,891	72,520	38,304	169,184	990,899	605,057
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Academy	35,489,749	4,523,357	2,658,833	9,634,622	52,306,561	48,268,909

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

18. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	61,967,934	61,967,934
Current assets	1,586,383	5,071,983	1,714,111	8,372,477
Creditors due within one year	-	(1,361,979)	-	(1,361,979)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(468,000)	-	(468,000)
Total	1,586,383	3,242,004	63,682,045	68,510,432

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	<i>Unrestricted</i> <i>funds</i> 2024 £	<i>Restricted</i> <i>funds</i> 2024 £	<i>Restricted</i> <i>fixed asset</i> <i>funds</i> 2024 £	<i>Total</i> <i>funds</i> 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	62,175,526	62,175,526
Current assets	1,937,874	4,040,838	1,223,763	7,202,475
Creditors due within one year	-	(1,106,422)	-	(1,106,422)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(4,034,000)	-	(4,034,000)
Total	1,937,874	(1,099,584)	63,399,289	64,237,579

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

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

	2025 £	2024 £
Net income for the year (as per Statement of financial activities)	1,347,853	4,187,931
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	2,780,387	2,768,609
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(2,470,570)	(2,023,299)
Defined benefit pension scheme obligation inherited	-	116,000
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	(685,000)	(636,000)
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	44,000	106,000
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	(144,546)	(128,354)
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	255,557	(559,020)
(Profit)/loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	10,037
Assets transferred on conversion	-	(4,464,852)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	1,127,681	(622,948)

20. Cash flows from financing activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Repayments of loans	-	(7,490)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	-	(7,490)

21. Cash flows from investing activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(2,572,795)	(2,907,957)
Capital grants from DfE Group	2,470,570	2,023,299
Net cash used in investing activities	(102,225)	(884,658)

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

22. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2025	2024
	£	£
Cash in hand and at bank	6,065,690	5,040,234
Total cash and cash equivalents	6,065,690	5,040,234

23. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2024	Cash flows	At 31 August 2025
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	5,040,234	1,025,456	6,065,690
	5,040,234	1,025,456	6,065,690

24. 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 Local Government Pension Schemes (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by Cheshire & Merseyside Pension Funds. 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.

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

Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. Membership is automatic for 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.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

24. Pension commitments (continued)

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 next valuation result is due to 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 £4,886,512 (2024 - £4,110,313).

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

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2025 was £2,853,000 (2024 - £2,534,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £2,270,000 (2024 - £2,028,000) and employees' contributions totalled £ 583,000 (2024 - £506,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 18.1 - 21.8 per cent for employers and 5.5 - 12.5 per cent for employees.

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

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

24. Pension commitments (continued)

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2025	2024
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	4	3.98
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.7	2.70
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	6.2	4.98
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.6	2.61

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

	2025	2024
	Years	Years
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	20.2	20.1
Females	23.4	23.4
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	21.9	21.9
Females	25	25.0

Sensitivity analysis

	2025	2024
	£000	£000
Discount rate +0.1%	(38)	(48)
Discount rate -0.1%	39	99
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	44	143
Mortality assumption - 1 year decrease	(43)	(57)
CPI rate +0.1%	39	97
CPI rate -0.1%	(38)	(48)

Share of scheme assets

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

24. Pension commitments (continued)

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

	At 31 August 2025	<i>At 31 August 2024</i>
	£	£
Equities	16,759,635	14,019,470
Property	3,760,929	3,265,870
Cash and other liquid assets	403,872	313,990
Other	496,469	2,728,000
Bonds	9,279,095	6,088,670
Total market value of assets	30,700,000	<i>26,416,000</i>

The actual return on scheme assets was £2,077,786 (2024 - £2,267,802).

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

	2025	<i>2024</i>
	£	£
Current service cost	1,564,000	1,373,000
Interest income	(1,381,000)	<i>(1,221,000)</i>
Interest cost	1,425,000	1,327,000
Administrative expenses	21,000	19,000
Total amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities	1,629,000	<i>1,498,000</i>

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

	2025	<i>2024</i>
	£	£
At 1 September	28,030,000	<i>24,430,000</i>
Current service cost	1,564,000	1,373,000
Interest cost	1,425,000	1,327,000
Employee contributions	583,000	506,000
Benefits paid	(347,000)	<i>(385,000)</i>
Actuarial (gains)/losses	(6,238,000)	373,000
Business Combinations	-	406,000
At 31 August	25,017,000	<i>28,030,000</i>

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

24. Pension commitments (continued)

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

	2025 £	2024 £
At 1 September	23,996,000	<i>21,911,000</i>
Interest income	1,381,000	<i>1,221,000</i>
Business combinations	-	<i>290,000</i>
Employee contributions	583,000	<i>506,000</i>
Benefits paid	(347,000)	<i>(385,000)</i>
Employer contributions	2,270,000	<i>2,028,000</i>
Actuarial gains	418,000	<i>864,000</i>
Administration Expenses	(21,000)	<i>(19,000)</i>
Pension Asset Ceiling Adjustment	(3,731,000)	<i>(2,420,000)</i>
At 31 August	24,549,000	<i>23,996,000</i>

25. Operating lease commitments

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

	2025 £	2024 £
Not later than 1 year	3,097,810	<i>2,945,622</i>
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	13,112,415	<i>12,667,024</i>
Later than 5 years	22,802,500	<i>26,544,507</i>
	39,012,725	<i>42,157,153</i>

26. 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.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

27. Related party transactions

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

28. Expenditure related party transactions

Mr C McLeod is a trustee of the trust and in a previous period a close family member was employed as a teacher at one of the Trust's schools. During the year to 31 August 2025 this employee remains in post. The appointment was made in open competition and Mr McLeod was not involved in the decision-making process regarding their appointment. The close family member is paid within the normal pay scale for their role and receives no special treatment as a result of their relationship to a trustee. This appointment was made prior to the 1 April 2019 deadline noted above and therefore not reported to the DfE.

Mrs M E Murphy was a trustee of the trust until she resigned on 30 June 2025 and is Principal of Riverside College. The Trust has approval for alternative provision and apprenticeships for Trust Schools and the associated costs utilising Riverside College to provide the support in part using the Trust's Apprenticeship levy balance. The in-year charge for this totalled £5.3k (2024 - £7.3k). This transaction has been registered with the DfE prior to undertaking these arrangements.

29. Income related party transactions

Wade Deacon MAT Services Ltd, a company limited by guarantee, is related to the Trust by virtue of having directors who are members of the Trust's senior management team. During the year the company generated a surplus of £27,500 from the hire of facilities. The surplus was transferred to the trust as a gift aid donation prior to 31 August 2025.

30. Capital Commitments

At 31 August 2025, the Trust has £154,520 in capital commitments (2024 - £0).