

**Company registration number 07990029 (England and Wales)**

**PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

# **PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST**

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# PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

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### Members

D Allchin  
K Freed  
E Godfrey  
A Henshall  
J Harvey

### Trustees

N Burridge  
S Cove  
N Denison  
E Flawn (Resigned 5 February 2025)  
H Freed  
J Harvey (Chair of Trustees)  
A Hobson  
M Robinson  
M Waller  
H Fellows  
E Cannon

### Senior management team

- Headteacher	Mr M Warren
- Deputy Headteacher	Mrs S Miller
- Deputy Headteacher	Mrs J Stephenson
- Assistant Headteacher	Ms K Chandler
- Assistant Headteacher	Mrs S Inwood
- Assistant Headteacher	Ms S Jennings
- Assistant Headteacher	Mrs E Sykes
- Assistant Headteacher	Mr M Payne
- School Business Manager	Mrs F Richardson

### Company registration number

07990029 (England and Wales)

### Registered office

Hoe Lane  
Ware  
Hertfordshire  
SG12 9NX  
United Kingdom

### Independent auditor

Azets  
Westpoint  
Lynch Wood  
Peterborough  
Cambridgeshire  
PE2 6FZ  
United Kingdom

# **PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

### ***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025***

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The trustees (who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act) present their annual report together with the accounts and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025. The trustees confirm that the Annual Report and auditors of the Academy comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the Academy's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in March 2005. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report, and a Directors' report under company law.

Presdales School is an academy for girls aged 11-18, with boys welcome in the sixth form, serving a catchment area in Ware, Hertford and surrounding areas. The Pupil Admission Number (PAN) remains at 180 giving a total capacity of 900 at Key Stages 3 and 4 with 892 students on roll in the school census in January 2025, plus 273 students at Key Stage 5.

#### **Structure, governance and management**

##### Constitution

The academy is a charitable company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity which was set up by a Memorandum of Association on 14 March 2012.

The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy. The Articles of Association were revised in October 2018 to reflect the size and structure preferred by ESFA, separating the roles of members and trustees. Members of staff no longer serve as Trustees.

The trustees of Presdales School Academy Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law.

The charitable company is also known as Presdales School.

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

##### Members' liability

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

##### Trustees' indemnities

The academy subscribes to the Risk Protection Arrangement to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent act, errors or omissions whilst on academy business.

##### 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 Trust deed.

There are a minimum of 2 and maximum of 4 trustees who are elected onto the board by parents. They are elected by parents of pupils registered at the academy through a formal process following notification of vacancies and invitation of nominations. All parents and carers of students at the academy are eligible to stand.

Members appoint up to 3 Trustees and 6 trustees may be co-opted by the Trust Board. Potential new Trustees are requested to submit a CV and meet with the Chair and Vice-Chair of Trustees and the Head teacher. When appropriate, the Chair, Vice-Chair and Head teacher will make a recommendation to the board for an appointment.

Care is taken to ensure a balance and mix of skills required for the proper running of the academy and this will be given weight when assessing a new appointment. New Trustees are often drawn from the local community and recruitment is through a combination of approaches to individuals with known skills, the use of School Trustees One Stop Shop and other agencies and by contacts received at the academy from interested parties.

# **PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

### ***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025***

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#### Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

New Trustees meet with the Chair of the Board to discuss their role. They are strongly encouraged to attend induction training through Herts for Learning, with whom the academy contracts for school improvement training and services. All new trustees are given a mentor for their first year on the board. The mentor is an existing member of the board who can offer support and guidance where appropriate.

Ongoing training is available for all Trustees and specific in-house training events have been arranged throughout the year. An annual Governor Performance Review was introduced in June 2013 to analyse training and activity undertaken with a view to identifying skill/training gaps which can be filled through appropriate training or mentoring.

#### Organisational structure

The Trustees have responsibility for setting and monitoring the overall strategic direction and objectives of the charitable company. The Trust Board meets six times each year.

The work of the Trust Board is shared amongst two committees:

- Students
- Resources (including the function of the Audit and Risk Committee)

Committees meet five or six times each year to consider detailed matters and recommend decisions to the full board. A nominated Assistant Head/Senior Leader attends all committee meetings to provide information and to aid liaison with the Senior Leadership Team.

In addition, a committee designated the Chairs Group comprising the Chair of Trustees, Vice Chair, Chairs of the two committees and the Head teacher meets at least termly, and as required, to organise business, make recommendations to the Trust Board and to consider strategic matters.

A scheme of financial delegation is in place that allows budgetary responsibility to be delegated through the Head teacher to the lowest level.

Trustees are responsible for setting general policy, approving the School Improvement Plan, approving the annual budget and making major decisions about the direction of the school. Decisions are taken at meetings of the Trust Board following consideration of reports and recommendations from Trustees' committees and the Head teacher.

Responsibility for managing the school on a day-to-day basis is delegated to the Head teacher, who also acts as the Accounting Officer. The Head teacher will implement the policies approved by Trustees and report to Trustees through the various sub-committees and at full Board meetings.

A committee of Trustees with the participation of an external adviser undertakes the annual performance review of the Head teacher and monitors performance and achievements against targets.

Individual Trustees assume responsibility for particular areas such as Health and safety, DPO, Careers, SEND, Pupil Premium, Safeguarding, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, Mental Health and School Resource Management.

Trustees are encouraged to, and do, participate fully in the work of the committees and the Trust Board.

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

The Trust Board gives due consideration to national guidance for the setting of staff salaries and will ensure that all key management personnel receive a salary review as part of the annual performance management process. On completion of this process, any pay awards, if due, will be made in accordance with the school pay policy.

# PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

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### Trade union facility time

#### *Relevant union officials*

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period

-

Full-time equivalent employee number

125.00

#### *Percentage of time spent on facility time*

Percentage of time

Number of employees

0%

-

1%-50%

-

51%-99%

-

100%

-

#### *Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time*

Total cost of facility time

-

Total pay bill

-

Percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time

-

#### *Paid trade union activities*

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

-

### Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

None.

### **Objectives and activities**

#### Objects and aims

Presdales School is a six form entry all-ability school which became an academy on 1st April 2012 for girls aged eleven to eighteen, with boys welcome in the sixth form. The school's principal activity 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 a school offering a broad and balanced curriculum. The school will also support the provision of recreational facilities for the local community. The trust was incorporated on 14 March 2012 and converted to an Academy School under the Trust on 1 April 2012.

#### Objectives, strategies and activities

Presdales School aims to provide an outstanding education that enables all students, regardless of their background and starting point, to achieve and surpass their academic potential. We are committed to the development of independent minded young women who have active and creative minds. We expect our students to acquire a sense of understanding and compassion for one another and to have courage to act on their beliefs.

We will equip our students with the skills and attributes to empower them to lead happy and successful lives, enabling them to make a meaningful contribution to our global society.

Our vision is of a school which values pupils of all ages and abilities and helps them to exceed expectations through high quality teaching and learning and access to a wide variety of activities which enrich their education and personal development beyond the classroom.

The school offers a broad and balanced curriculum which exceeds the basic requirements of the National Curriculum by offering increased opportunities to all students.

# **PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

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Our objectives for the school focus on six main strands:

1. To ensure the highest achievement for all students
2. To further improve the quality of Teaching and Learning at Presdales School
3. To further improve the quality of pastoral care in the school
4. To ensure the highest quality of Leadership and Management
5. To develop an outstanding sixth form for all
6. To ensure the highest quality resources and environment

#### **Public benefit**

In setting our objectives and planning our activities, the trustees have carefully considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The Trustees are satisfied that the academy has complied with its requirement for the public benefit for the education of girls in the Ware, Hertford and surrounding areas in accordance with its charitable purpose, which can be demonstrated by the continued excellent examination results achieved by students of this academy.

In addition, the school maintains links with a number of local primary schools by providing curricular support in Physical Education and sports and recreational facilities are made available for public use. The start of the construction of the 3G Pitch during the year will enable the School to further this purpose as it will be available for use by the community, with girl's football given priority wherever possible.

The academy follows the coordinated admissions arrangements for single-sex schools previously designed by Hertfordshire County Council.

#### **Strategic report**

##### **Key performance indicators**

##### **Ofsted Inspections**

The school was rated 'outstanding' in all areas at the full inspection that took place in March 2024 having been previously confirmed as this by letter in 2011.

##### **Admissions/Pupil numbers**

The school's excellent reputation ensures that it remains very popular in the local area and is consistently over-subscribed for admissions into Year 7. Once again, the school was fully subscribed for September 2024, with 180 places offered. For 2024/2025 there were 1,168 pupils of which 276 were in the 6th form.

##### **Attendance**

The academy's attendance rate for 2024/25 was 93.7%, which is above average for secondary schools.

##### **Financial Performance Indicators**

The academy spent 68% of its total income on staff costs. Of the total salary spend, teachers' salaries (excluding Management) account for 73% of the total.

##### **Recruitment and Retention of Staff**

Despite difficulties in the local area the school remains fully staffed and has been able to recruit high quality teaching staff. The turnover of staff is in line with previous years.

##### **Teaching and Learning**

The school follows the National Curriculum at KS3 and KS4. Students have the opportunity to study a varied and vibrant curriculum. The average Pupil/Teacher ratio is 16 which is benchmarked as broadly in line with other schools and teaching staff costs (excluding Management) account for approximately 67% of the academy's GAG income and 16-19 funding.

##### **Examination results**

The school continues to achieve results well above the national average.

# PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

### Examination results

GCSE	August 2021 (FFT)	August 2022 (FFT)	August 2023 (FFT)	August 2024 (FFT)	August 2025 (DfE)
Attainment 8	64.96	61.46	57.7	58.77	58.8
Progress 8	n/a	+0.49	+0.59	+0.61	n/a
Achieving 5+ in both English and Maths	79%	73%	68%	71%	70%
Achieving 4+ in both English and Maths	94%	88%	87%	93%	90%
Entered for the EBacc	87%	84%	80%	82%	83%
A level	August 2020 (School)	August 2021 (School)	August 2022 (School)	August 2023 (School)	August 2024 (School)
Average points per entry	44.07 (B)	39.49 (B)	39.60	36.68	37.71

### Destination of Year 13 Leavers

	August 2021	August 2022	August 2023	August 2024	August 2025
Total number of students in year	115	138	124	134	143
Percentage in Higher Education	87%	81%	90%	74%	75.5%
Percentage in Further Education and Higher Apprenticeships	9%	2%	2%	16%	4.2%
Percentage in any other category (eg gap year students, Year 14, employment)	4%	17%	8%	10%	19.5%

### Other Achievements

During the period under review the following objectives have been achieved:

- Excellent GCSE and A level results across all abilities and backgrounds, based on public examination.
- Students have participated in wide range of school trips to support their learning outside the classroom
- Improvements made to the school site, including the expansion of the new fire doors project, the refurbishment of the staff room as well as the conversion of the Lecture Theatre to a second Drama Studio. This created a new and vibrant space for a growing subject using the previously most under-utilised room in the school.

### 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, the board of trustees continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the accounts. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Accounting Policies.



# **PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

### ***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025***

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#### **Financial review**

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

The principal source of funding for the Trust is the General Annual Grant (GAG) and other grants that it receives from the ESFA totalling £7,916k. The Trust also generates income from working with other Local Authorities totalling £133k and through other traded services totalling £1,018k

During the year ended 31 August 2025, total grant funding and other sources of funding totalling £9,732k (2024: £9,086k) exceeded total expenditure of £ 9,116k (2024: £8,634k) resulting in a surplus before actuarial gains of £616k (2024 : £451k). During the year, the school continued with the IT infrastructure upgrade project with new interactive white boards. Other projects undertaken were the redevelopment of the staffroom and the conversion of the Lecture theatre to a second Dram Studio. Expenditure has been used to support the key objectives of the academy, focusing on Teaching and Learning. The academy continues to recruit excellent teaching staff and appropriate levels of staffing have been maintained. The running costs of the school including salaries, utility bills and purchasing curriculum and food items has risen considerably in line with inflationary increases and this is considered likely to continue going forward into the new financial year.

#### Reserves policy

Under its Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education, the school is no longer subject to a restriction regarding the amount of General Annual Grant (GAG) that can be carried forward.

The reserves policy divides reserves into restricted and unrestricted reserves. Restricted reserves are held for specific purposes, and unrestricted reserves are held to deal with unexpected events and emergencies. The approximate amount of unrestricted reserves should be enough to cover at least one month's running costs of the Academy. Future plans include the possibility of introducing another classroom block to increase the size of the school as well as the possibility of classroom extensions in response to the changes seen in student numbers for subjects chosen for GCSE and A level.

The Trustees have operated on the basis that, whilst efforts will be made to allocate funds to be spent on the education of those students who have generated the income, it is prudent to set a reasonable contingency to allow for unforeseen and emergency expenditure and to plan for future projects. The contingency sum for 2023/24 was increased to £400k and it appeared prudent to keep it at this level for 2024/2025.

At 31 August 2025 the value of unrestricted general reserves was £1,241k (2024: £980k). The excess Unrestricted Reserves are earmarked to cover future uncertainties around school funding and to fund capital investment in the school to ensure that it meets the needs of the student body.

#### Investment policy

The Trust Board continues to look at ways of maximising the investment potential of the surplus funds, whilst ensuring that sufficient funds are readily available for the academy's monthly expenditure. A sum of £200,000 was transferred to a 32-day notice account and a fixed term deposit account to protect against any fraudulent activity on the bank account. The Trust Board will continue to investigate investment opportunities in line with fluctuations and changes to the wider economy.

# **PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

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### Principal risks and uncertainties

The Trust Board is responsible for overseeing the risks faced by the school. A Risk Management Policy and Risk Register are maintained by the Audit and Risk Committee and reviewed annually. The academy has identified and assessed other major risks to which the school is exposed and ensured that policies and procedures are in place to mitigate such risks. These include strategic and reputational risks, compliancy risks, operational and financial risks including the following:

- a reduction in and uncertainty over ESFA funding due to a change in the funding formula or a reduction in student numbers.
- reduced numbers of students in the sixth form
- insufficient funds in a flat cash budget allocation to honour staff pay rises and increased NI employer's contributions as well as energy costs
- extensive staff absence
- difficulty in recruiting appropriate staff
- damage to buildings or failure of plant and equipment
- LGPS pension deficit

Trustees are satisfied that the major risks identified have been adequately mitigated where necessary, although it is recognised that systems can only provide reasonable but not absolute assurance that major risks have been adequately managed.

### **Fundraising**

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

### **Plans for future periods**

For the coming financial year, the academy plans to focus on the following key objectives as highlighted in the School Improvement Plan:

#### **Quality of education**

- Reducing in-school variation in results at both KS4 and KS5
- Continue to improve outcomes for disadvantaged students and SEND students
- Continue supporting students to 'catch-up' in English and Maths.
- Providing assessment systems that enable effective feedback that supports all students to make progress
- Stretching and challenging the most able
- Providing students with opportunities outside of the standard curriculum

#### **Behaviour and attitudes**

- Setting high levels of expectations for the behaviour of students in and out of the classroom
- Ensuring our systems for high levels of attendance and punctuality are effective
- Providing an environment where students feel safe and cared for, and where bullying and discrimination are not accepted

#### **Personal development**

- Celebrating the successes of students
- Providing a wider curriculum that encompasses SMSC, FBV, Healthy and Safe living, SRE education
- Promoting an inclusive environment that meets the needs of all students
- Ensuring that all students are given appropriate support when transitioning to the next stage of their education

# **PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

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### **Leadership and management**

- Keeping student's safe
- Ensuring that the school's vision and values are at the heart of all we do
- Regularly seeking the views of all stakeholders and act where appropriate to do so
- Ensuring that staff are well-trained in the subjects that they are teaching
- Ensuring that the monitoring of all departments' work is rigorous and leads to higher standards
- Governed effectively
- Working with other schools and organisations to support our continual school improvement

### **Sixth form provision**

- Always aiming for the highest standards in KS5
- Supporting students effectively with their next steps
- Giving students opportunities to demonstrate and develop leadership skills
- Providing an effective programme of study

### **Resources and environment**

- Keeping within our budget and managing the resources of the School to ensure maximum efficacy with the aim of future-proofing the school as future financial challenges arise.
- Seeking to improve the infrastructure of the school to ensure that we are providing the best environment for the students to learn in and to ensure that we continue to attract new students to the school.
- Generating our own income from charities and grants
- Continually improving the ICT network and updating ICT classroom on a rolling programme

The following areas are all in the School Improvement Plan, but also have a separate, more detailed action plan. Each subject department will also produce an improvement plan, for example.

### **SEND**

#### **Careers**

### **Auditor**

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

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

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 3/12/25 and signed on its behalf by:



J Harvey

**Chair of Trustees**

# PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

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### Scope of responsibility

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

The board of trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the principal, as accounting officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Presdales School Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. The accounting officer is also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

### Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The board of trustees has formally met 6 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of trustees was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
N Burridge	6	6
S Cove	5	6
N Denison	5	6
E Flawn (Resigned 5 February 2025)	1	2
H Freed	5	6
J Harvey (Chair of Trustees)	6	6
A Hobson	5	6
M Robinson	5	6
M Waller	5	6
H Fellows	5	6
E Cannon	5	5

There have not been significant changes in the composition of the board of trustees. The board has met during the year and assessed through the use of challenge and support, the efficacy of the management of the school.

As part of this, the board carried out an assessment of its own effectiveness. The Board is happy that the data received is of the required quality in order for them to fulfil their role.

### Review of value for money

As accounting officer, the principal 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 achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

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

- **Raising Student Attainment**

The school was rated 'outstanding' in all areas at the Ofsted inspection that took place in March 2024 having previously been confirmed as such by letter in 2011. The school continues to achieve results well above the national average and this is demonstrated by the excellent examination results: Full details are available on the Academy website <http://www.presdales.herts.sch.uk>.

- **Targeted Improvement**

The Headteacher carries out an annual review of teaching staff to ensure best value in terms of quality of teaching and learning, pupil-teacher ratio, and curriculum management.

# **PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST**

## **GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

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- **Focus on Individual Students**

The academy focuses on the wide range of needs of our students, arranging one-to-one tuition where applicable and providing mentoring and counselling when appropriate. Pupil Premium funding has primarily been used for interventions to close gaps in core subjects. The academy has focused on initiatives identified by the Education Endowment Foundation as having the best educational gain for financial outlay. The impact of interventions in Presdales' context is evaluated and strategies are extended, modified or changes altogether in light of student outcomes.

- **Collaboration**

The Trust Board has a strong oversight of the financial management of the budget and is mindful of the need to balance expenditure against income to ensure the academy remains a 'going concern'. The Board approves the annual school budget and the Annual Accounts.

### **Financial Governance and Oversight**

The Board responds to issues raised in the External Audit Management Reports on the financial statements and on regularity.

The Resources Committee considers the annual budget before recommending it for approval by the Trust Board, alongside the School Improvement Plan. The Committee receives termly budget monitoring information and reviews performance in line with budget.

The Academy has engaged an internal audit service from Hertfordshire County Council to review key financial policies, systems and procedures. Reports on compliance are considered by the Responsible Officer and Audit and Risk Committee.

### **Effective Purchasing**

The academy has procedures and controls for assessing need and procuring goods and services which provide "best value" in terms of suitability, efficiency, time, and cost.

### **Improved Income Generation**

The academy's excellent reputation ensures that it remains popular in the local area and is consistently oversubscribed for admissions into Year 7. The academy attracts good numbers of students into the sixth form and is continuing its drive to recruit across a wide local area in order to ensure the viability of the varied curriculum and increase income.

School facilities are made available for hire by the local community and organisations which generates additional income for the school in terms of lettings.

### **Reviewing Controls and Managing Risks**

- The Academy has prepared a Risk Register and Risk Management Policy to identify potential financial and business risks and put measures in place to minimise the implications of these risks.
- The Resource Committee regularly reviews the Medium Term Financial Plan to ensure that any future financial risks are identified as soon as possible.
- Monthly budget monitoring reports are produced and reviewed by the Headteacher, and School Business Manager and any necessary remedial actions taken to address significant variances that may have an impact on the budget out-turn.

### **Monitoring**

The academy will continue to use the following strategies to be able to maintain and improve student attainment and to achieve best value:

- In-house monitoring by the Senior Leadership Team, Heads of Department and Heads of Year, including classroom observation, work scrutiny
- Annual programme of Performance Appraisal for all staff
- Annual Budget Planning including medium term 3 to 5-year plan
- Review of progress in achieving School Improvement Plan objectives
- Termly internal audit reviews
- Analysis of benchmark data for all schools
- Analysis of DfE student performance data
- Trustees' meetings (full and committee).
- Annual achievement meetings with subject leaders

# **PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST**

## **GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025***

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### **The purpose of the system of internal control**

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

### **Capacity to handle risk**

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of academy policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Presdales School Academy 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 risk and control framework**

The academy'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 Resources committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- regular reviews of the risks facing the financial management of the school to ensure that the Trustees believe that the controls and measures are in place to mitigate any such risks.
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- identification and management of risks.

The Trust Board has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided to contract with Hertfordshire County Council Shared Audit Services to carry out a range of internal checks of the academy trust's financial systems including:

- Effectiveness of Governance
- Budget preparation and controls
- Financial controls
- Purchasing and payment systems and contracting Payroll systems
- Income controls

For the year ended 31 August 2025, the areas subject to scrutiny were the School Website, Whistleblowing and Gifts and Hospitality and Basic Control Principles and Risk Management.

The results of these inspections are reported immediately to the Responsible Officer, Headteacher and Chair of Trustees and followed up with an end of year report which concluded with substantial assurance of financial controls and no major recommendations to implement across all three areas that were subject to the scrutiny in the programme of work for 2024-2025.

### **Review of effectiveness**

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

- the work of the internal auditor;
- the work of the external auditor;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process;
- the work of the executive managers within the academy who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

# **PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST**

## **GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025***

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The accounting officer is aware of the necessity for efficient systems of internal controls and plans to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the systems are in place.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 31/12/25 and signed on its behalf by:



J Harvey  
**Chair of Trustees**



M Warren  
**Accounting Officer**

# **PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST**

## **STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE**

***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025***

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As accounting officer of Presdales School Academy Trust, I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy board of trustees and the Department for Education (DfE) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding received by the academy, including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement in place between the academy 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 board of trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the academy, or material non-compliance with the framework of authorities.

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



M Warren  
**Accounting Officer**

3/12/25..



# **PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST**

## **STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

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

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

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 17 Dec 25 and signed on its behalf by:



J Harvey

**Chair of Trustees**

# **PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST**

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

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### **Opinion**

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company'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;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025.

### **Basis for opinion**

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

### **Conclusions relating to going concern**

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

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

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

### **Other information**

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

# **PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST**

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

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### **Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

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

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

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

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the academy and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report, including the incorporated 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 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 charitable company, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

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

### **Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud**

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above and on the Financial Reporting Council's website, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

We obtain and update our understanding of the entity, its activities, its control environment, and likely future developments, including in relation to the legal and regulatory framework applicable and how the entity is complying with that framework. Based on this understanding, we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. This includes consideration of the risk of acts by the entity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

# **PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST**

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

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In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, we designed procedures which included:

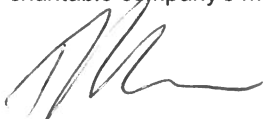
- Enquiry of senior leadership, Governors/Trustees and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Assessing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations including compliance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency;
- Performing audit work over the recognition of grant income and the allocation of expenditure to funds;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

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 of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

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

### **Use of our report**

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



**Tracey Richardson BSc (Hons) FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)**

For and on behalf of Azets, Statutory Auditor

Chartered Accountants

Westpoint  
Lynch Wood  
Peterborough  
Cambridgeshire  
PE2 6FZ  
United Kingdom

Date: 19/12/25

# **PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST**

## **INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON REGULARITY TO PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION**

***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025***

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In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 19 September 2025 and further to the requirements of the Department for Education (DfE) as included in the extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether anything has come to our attention that would suggest, in all material respects, the expenditure disbursed and income received by Presdales School Academy Trust during the period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 have not been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

### **Respective responsibilities of the accounting officer of Presdales School Academy Trust and the reporting accountant**

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

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

### **Approach**

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- a review of the activities of the academy, by reference to sources of income and other information available to us;
- sample testing of expenditure, including payroll;
- a review of minutes of Governors' meetings.

# **PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST**

## **INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON REGULARITY TO PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

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### **Conclusion**

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



### **Reporting Accountant**

Azets

Westpoint

Lynch Wood

Peterborough

Cambridgeshire

PE2 6FZ

United Kingdom

Date: 19/12/25

# PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>						
Donations and capital grants	3	126,845	-	538,048	664,893	550,912
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	665,663	8,057,755	-	8,723,418	8,185,879
Other trading activities	5	319,679	-	-	319,679	323,500
Investments	6	24,348	-	-	24,348	25,664
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,136,535</b>	<b>8,057,755</b>	<b>538,048</b>	<b>9,732,338</b>	<b>9,085,955</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	8	776,002	7,839,369	501,047	9,116,418	8,634,392
<b>Total</b>	7	<b>776,002</b>	<b>7,839,369</b>	<b>501,047</b>	<b>9,116,418</b>	<b>8,634,392</b>
<b>Net income</b>		<b>360,533</b>	<b>218,386</b>	<b>37,001</b>	<b>615,920</b>	<b>451,563</b>
Transfers between funds	17	(100,000)	(218,386)	318,386	-	-
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	19	-	476,000	-	476,000	139,000
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>260,533</b>	<b>476,000</b>	<b>355,387</b>	<b>1,091,920</b>	<b>590,563</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>						
Total funds brought forward		980,153	(476,000)	13,676,345	14,180,498	13,589,935
Total funds carried forward		1,240,686	-	14,031,732	15,272,418	14,180,498

# PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Comparative year information Year ended 31 August 2024	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total 2024 £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and capital grants	3	1,684	-	549,228	550,912
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	730,755	7,455,124	-	8,185,879
Other trading activities	5	323,500	-	-	323,500
Investments	6	25,664	-	-	25,664
<b>Total</b>		1,081,603	7,455,124	549,228	9,085,955
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	8	815,399	7,255,584	563,409	8,634,392
<b>Total</b>	7	815,399	7,255,584	563,409	8,634,392
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		266,204	199,540	(14,181)	451,563
Transfers between funds	17	-	(212,540)	212,540	-
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	19	-	139,000	-	139,000
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		266,204	126,000	198,359	590,563
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		713,949	(602,000)	13,477,986	13,589,935
Total funds carried forward		980,153	(476,000)	13,676,345	14,180,498



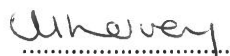
# PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	12		14,031,732		13,607,873
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stock	13	57,621		53,487	
Debtors	14	439,787		1,003,051	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,335,399		998,820	
		<u>1,832,807</u>		<u>2,055,358</u>	
<b>Current liabilities</b>					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(592,121)		(1,006,733)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>1,240,686</u>		<u>1,048,625</u>
<b>Net assets excluding pension liability</b>			<u>15,272,418</u>		<u>14,656,498</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	19		-		(476,000)
<b>Total net assets</b>			<u><u>15,272,418</u></u>		<u><u>14,180,498</u></u>
<b>Funds of the academy:</b>					
<b>Restricted funds</b>	17				
- Fixed asset funds			14,031,732		13,676,345
- Pension reserve			-		(476,000)
<b>Total restricted funds</b>			<u>14,031,732</u>		<u>13,200,345</u>
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>	17		<u>1,240,686</u>		<u>980,153</u>
<b>Total funds</b>			<u><u>15,272,418</u></u>		<u><u>14,180,498</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 21 to 45 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 31/12/25 and are signed on their behalf by:

  
 J Harvey  
 Chair of Trustees

Company registration number 07990029 (England and Wales)

# PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	20		699,089		(167,256)
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		24,348		25,664	
Capital grants from DfE Group		25,389		70,226	
Capital funding received from sponsors and others		512,659		479,002	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(924,906)		(648,181)	
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>			(362,510)		(73,289)
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>					
Repayment of other loan		-		(3,678)	
Finance costs		-		(1,864)	
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>			-		(5,542)
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>			336,579		(246,087)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			998,820		1,244,907
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year</b>			1,335,399		998,820

# PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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#### 1 Accounting policies

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

##### 1.1 Basis of preparation

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

##### 1.2 Going concern

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

##### 1.3 Income

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

###### Grants

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

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

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

###### Sponsorship income

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

###### Donations

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

###### Other income

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

# PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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#### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

##### Donated goods, facilities and services

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

##### Donated fixed assets

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

#### 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 are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

##### Expenditure on raising funds

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

##### Charitable activities

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

#### 1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Assets costing £2,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

# PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

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

### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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

Land and buildings	2% on property, 125 years on land
Assets under construction	None
Computer equipment	20% - 33.33%
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	10% - 20%

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

#### 1.6 Liabilities

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

#### 1.7 Leased assets

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

#### 1.8 Financial instruments

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

##### Financial assets

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

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

##### Financial liabilities

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

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

#### 1.9 Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Net realisable value is based on estimated selling price less further costs to completion and disposal. Provision is made for obsolete and slow moving stock.

#### 1.10 Taxation

The academy is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the academy is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by chapter 3 part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

# **PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST**

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

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#### **1 Accounting policies**

**(Continued)**

##### **1.11 Pensions benefits**

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.

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

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

##### **1.12 Fund accounting**

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

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

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

##### **1.13 Agency arrangements**

The Academy Trust acts as the agent in distributing 16-19 bursary funds from the ESFA. Payments received from the ESFA and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the statement of financial activities as the trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The trust can use up to 5% of the allocation towards its own administration costs and this is recognised in the statement of financial activities. The funds received and paid and any balances held are disclosed in note 27.

#### **2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement**

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

# PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

#### 2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

(Continued)

##### 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 19, will impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 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 judgement

There are no critical areas of judgement.

#### 3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Capital grants	-	25,389	25,389	70,226
Other donations	126,845	512,659	639,504	480,686
	<u>126,845</u>	<u>538,048</u>	<u>664,893</u>	<u>550,912</u>

# PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
<b>DfE/ESFA grants</b>				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	5,619,127	5,619,127	5,286,319
Other DfE/ESFA grants:				
- 16 - 19 funding	-	1,565,842	1,565,842	1,471,949
- Pupil premium	-	120,515	120,515	105,745
- Mainstream schools additional grant	-	260,718	260,718	183,229
- Teachers pension grants	-	212,536	212,536	118,317
- Teachers pay grants	-	96,121	96,121	94,732
- Others	-	41,133	41,133	41,287
	-	7,915,992	7,915,992	7,301,578
<b>Other government grants</b>				
Local authority grants	-	133,024	133,024	115,778
Special educational projects	-	-	-	22,693
	-	133,024	133,024	138,471
<b>Other incoming resources</b>	665,663	8,739	674,402	745,830
<b>Total funding</b>	665,663	8,057,755	8,723,418	8,185,879

#### 5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Hire of facilities	112,376	-	112,376	61,507
Other income	207,303	-	207,303	261,993
	319,679	-	319,679	323,500

#### 6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Other investment income	24,348	-	24,348	25,664



# PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### 7 Expenditure

	Staff costs £	Non-pay expenditure Premises £	Other £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	6,022,178	-	816,417	6,838,595	6,349,731
- Allocated support costs	715,820	989,516	572,487	2,277,823	2,284,661
	<u>6,737,998</u>	<u>989,516</u>	<u>1,388,904</u>	<u>9,116,418</u>	<u>8,634,392</u>

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2025 £	2024 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	501,047	512,648
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	16,590	15,800
- Other services	2,255	2,150
Bank and loan interest	-	1,864
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	19,000	30,000
	<u></u>	<u></u>

### 8 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
<b>Direct costs</b>				
Educational operations	776,002	6,062,593	6,838,595	6,349,731
<b>Support costs</b>				
Educational operations	-	2,277,823	2,277,823	2,284,661
	<u>776,002</u>	<u>8,340,416</u>	<u>9,116,418</u>	<u>8,634,392</u>

Analysis of costs

	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Direct costs</b>		
Teaching and educational support staff costs	6,061,250	5,379,109
Staff development	18,240	12,989
Educational supplies and services	246,693	229,256
Examination fees	143,220	139,758
Other direct costs	369,192	588,619
	<u>6,838,595</u>	<u>6,349,731</u>

# PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### 8 Charitable activities (Continued)

<b>Support costs</b>		
Support staff costs	721,358	783,358
Depreciation	501,047	512,648
Technology costs	245,089	113,740
Maintenance of premises and equipment	84,382	197,482
Cleaning	159,640	145,674
Energy costs	120,237	114,274
Rent, rates and other occupancy costs	94,735	26,531
Insurance	29,475	24,044
Security and transport	13,016	16,087
Catering	156,344	197,829
Finance costs	19,000	31,864
Other support costs	117,798	103,731
Governance costs	15,702	17,399
	<u>2,277,823</u>	<u>2,284,661</u>

### 9 Staff

#### Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	4,795,218	4,504,489
Social security costs	552,522	459,990
Pension costs	1,260,662	1,082,859
Staff costs - employees	<u>6,608,402</u>	<u>6,047,338</u>
Agency staff costs	129,596	122,848
Staff restructuring costs	-	5,000
	<u>6,737,998</u>	<u>6,175,186</u>
Staff development and other staff costs	62,850	270
Total staff expenditure	<u>6,800,848</u>	<u>6,175,456</u>
Staff restructuring costs comprise:		
Severance payments	-	5,000

# PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### 9 Staff

(Continued)

#### Staff numbers

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

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Teachers	79	77
Administration and support	81	75
Management	9	9
	<u>169</u>	<u>161</u>

#### Higher paid staff

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

	2025 Number	2024 Number
£60,001 - £70,000	5	3
£70,001 - £80,000	5	4
£80,001 - £90,000	-	2
£90,001 - £100,000	2	-
£110,001 - £120,000	-	1
£130,001 - £140,000	1	-
	<u>13</u>	<u>10</u>

#### Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy was £1,059,803 (2024: £955,622).

### 10 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2024: £nil).

During the year, no trustees expenses have been incurred (2024: £nil).

### 11 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. The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

# PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### 12 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings £	Assets under construction £	Computer equipment £	Fixtures, fittings & equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>					
At 1 September 2024	15,313,273	410,530	974,747	1,375,142	18,073,692
Transfer on conversion	410,530	(410,530)	-	-	-
Additions	661,275	-	122,719	140,912	924,906
At 31 August 2025	16,385,078	-	1,097,466	1,516,054	18,998,598
<b>Depreciation</b>					
At 1 September 2024	3,012,546	-	624,955	828,318	4,465,819
Charge for the year	272,837	-	109,458	118,752	501,047
At 31 August 2025	3,285,383	-	734,413	947,070	4,966,866
<b>Net book value</b>					
At 31 August 2025	13,099,695	-	363,053	568,984	14,031,732
At 31 August 2024	12,300,727	410,530	349,792	546,824	13,607,873

### 13 Stock

	2025 £	2024 £
Stock	57,621	53,487

### 14 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	17,381	2,417
VAT recoverable	15,232	280,488
Prepayments and accrued income	407,174	720,146
	439,787	1,003,051

# PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

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

### 15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	7,547	66,302
Other taxation and social security	131,788	102,030
Other creditors	144,066	130,580
Accruals and deferred income	308,720	707,821
	<u>592,121</u>	<u>1,006,733</u>

### 16 Deferred income

	2025 £	2024 £
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	<u>205,084</u>	<u>206,205</u>
Deferred income at 1 September 2024	206,205	141,799
Released from previous years	(206,205)	(141,799)
Resources deferred in the year	<u>205,084</u>	<u>206,205</u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2025	<u>205,084</u>	<u>206,205</u>

At the balance sheet date, the Academy was holding funds received in advance for school trips which are to take place in 25/26.

# PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### 17 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2025 £
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	5,619,127	(5,400,741)	(218,386)	-
16 - 19 funding	-	1,565,842	(1,565,842)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	120,515	(120,515)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	610,508	(610,508)	-	-
Other government grants	-	133,024	(133,024)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	8,739	(8,739)	-	-
Pension reserve	(476,000)	-	-	476,000	-
	(476,000)	8,057,755	(7,839,369)	257,614	-
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
DfE group capital grants	-	25,389	-	(25,389)	-
Capital expenditure from GAG	13,607,873	-	(501,047)	924,906	14,031,732
Private sector capital sponsorship	68,472	512,659	-	(581,131)	-
	13,676,345	538,048	(501,047)	318,386	14,031,732
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	13,200,345	8,595,803	(8,340,416)	576,000	14,031,732
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General funds	880,153	1,136,535	(776,002)	-	1,240,686
3G Pitch	100,000	-	-	(100,000)	-
	980,153	1,136,535	(776,002)	(100,000)	1,240,686
<b>Total funds</b>	14,180,498	9,732,338	(9,116,418)	476,000	15,272,418

# PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

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

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### 17 Funds

(Continued)

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

#### General Annual Grant

Income received from the ESFA to cover the normal running costs of the School. Under the amended funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the School trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2024.

#### Pupil Premium

Income received from the ESFA to improve education outcomes for disadvantaged pupils in schools in England.

#### Teachers Pension Grants

Income received from the ESFA to support schools with the cost of the increase in employer contributions to the teachers' pension scheme.

#### Teachers Pay Grants

Income received from the ESFA to provide funding for schools to support teachers' pay awards.

#### Other DFE/ESFA grants

This includes the rates reclaim, schools supplementary grant, and the education services grant

#### Other government grants

This includes the local authority SEN grant and other local authority grants

#### Other restricted income

This includes trip income.

#### Pension Reserve

This fund represents the Academy's share of the deficit of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) transferred to the Academy on conversion from being a state controlled school.

#### General Restricted Fixed Asset Fund

General restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes. Income received from both the Department for Education and the Education and Skills Funding Agency for capital projects undertaken by the Academy are shown as income in this fund. Where income is spent on projects that are repair in nature, costs of such repairs are transferred out to restricted general funds.

# PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### 17 Funds

(Continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	5,286,319	(5,073,779)	(212,540)	-
16 - 19 funding	-	1,471,949	(1,471,949)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	105,745	(105,745)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	437,565	(437,565)	-	-
Other government grants	-	138,471	(138,471)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	15,075	(15,075)	-	-
Pension reserve	(602,000)	-	(13,000)	139,000	(476,000)
	(602,000)	7,455,124	(7,255,584)	(73,540)	(476,000)
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
DfE group capital grants	5,646	70,226	(50,761)	(25,111)	-
Capital expenditure from GAG	13,472,340	-	(512,648)	648,181	13,607,873
Private sector capital sponsorship	-	479,002	-	(410,530)	68,472
	13,477,986	549,228	(563,409)	212,540	13,676,345
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	12,875,986	8,004,352	(7,818,993)	139,000	13,200,345
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General funds	713,949	1,081,603	(815,399)	(100,000)	880,153
3G Pitch	-	-	-	100,000	100,000
	713,949	1,081,603	(815,399)	-	980,153
<b>Total funds</b>	13,589,935	9,085,955	(8,634,392)	139,000	14,180,498

### 18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
<b>Fund balances at 31 August 2025 are represented by:</b>				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	14,031,732	14,031,732
Current assets	1,832,807	-	-	1,832,807
Current liabilities	(592,121)	-	-	(592,121)
<b>Total net assets</b>	1,240,686	-	14,031,732	15,272,418



# PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### 18 Analysis of net assets between funds

(Continued)

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
<b>Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:</b>				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	13,607,873	13,607,873
Current assets	1,986,886	-	68,472	2,055,358
Current liabilities	(1,006,733)	-	-	(1,006,733)
Pension scheme liability	-	(476,000)	-	(476,000)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>980,153</b>	<b>(476,000)</b>	<b>13,676,345</b>	<b>14,180,498</b>

### 19 Pension and similar obligations

The academy's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for nonteaching staff, which is managed by Hertfordshire County Council. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

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

Contributions amounting to £144,116 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2025 (2024: £128,522) and are included within creditors.

#### Teachers' Pension Scheme

##### Introduction

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

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

##### Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

# PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

#### 19 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

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

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £1,064,154 (2024: £893,655).

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

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

#### Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 25.3% for employers and 5.5 - 12.5% 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.

The actuarial valuation prepared under FRS102 in respect of the Local Government Pension Scheme indicated that the Trust's share of the scheme was in surplus at the year end to the value of £401,000 (2024: £476,000 deficit). The actuaries have undertaken an asset ceiling calculation to determine how much of the asset is expected to materialise. The actuaries consider whether the period being considered for recognition of the potential asset should be in perpetuity or over the estimated future working life of members in the scheme and the trustees consider that using the 'future working life' period more appropriately reflects the amount that it is reasonable to recognise in respect of the foreseeable future. On the basis that a minimum funding requirement does exist, these calculations indicate that £nil (2024: £nil) of the overall surplus is likely to result in either a refund of contributions or a reduction in future contributions in the future.

# PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### 19 Pension and similar obligations (Continued)

Total contributions made	2025 £	2024 £
Employer's contributions	214,000	202,000
Employees' contributions	61,000	56,000
Total contributions	275,000	258,000
Principal actuarial assumptions	2025 %	2024 %
Rate of increase in salaries	3.50	2.15
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.50	2.65
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.95	5.00

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

	2025 Years	2024 Years
Retiring today		
- Males	22.6	20.8
- Females	24.5	25.0
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	24.2	21.0
- Females	26.2	25.7

#### Sensitivity analysis

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

	2025	2024
Discount rate - 0.1%	65,000	90,000
Mortality assumption + 1 year	105,000	186,000
Salary Increase Rate + 0.1%	3,000	2,000
Pension Increase Rate + 0.1%	65,000	90,000

# PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### 19 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

Defined benefit pension scheme net asset/(liability)	2025 £	2024 £
Scheme assets	4,578,000	4,163,000
Scheme obligations	(4,177,000)	(4,639,000)
Net asset/(liability)	401,000	(476,000)
Restriction on scheme assets	(401,000)	-
Total liability recognised	-	(476,000)

#### The academy's share of the assets in the scheme

	2025 Fair value £	2024 Fair value £
Equities	2,739,000	2,415,000
Bonds	1,038,000	1,124,000
Cash	122,000	124,000
Property	679,000	500,000
Total market value of assets	4,578,000	4,163,000
Restriction on scheme assets	(401,000)	-
Net assets recognised	4,177,000	4,163,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £282,000 (2024: £339,000).

#### Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Current service cost	195,000	185,000
Interest income	(211,000)	(196,000)
Interest cost	230,000	226,000
Total amount recognised	214,000	215,000

# PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### 19 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations	2025 £	2024 £
At 1 September 2024	4,639,000	4,299,000
Current service cost	195,000	185,000
Interest cost	230,000	226,000
Employee contributions	61,000	56,000
Actuarial (gain)/loss	(806,000)	4,000
Benefits paid	(142,000)	(131,000)
At 31 August 2025	4,177,000	4,639,000

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

	2025 £	2024 £
At 1 September 2024	4,163,000	3,697,000
Interest income	211,000	196,000
Actuarial gain	71,000	143,000
Employer contributions	214,000	202,000
Employee contributions	61,000	56,000
Benefits paid	(142,000)	(131,000)
At 31 August 2025	4,578,000	4,163,000
Restriction on scheme assets	(401,000)	-
Net assets recognised	4,177,000	4,163,000

### Restriction of pension scheme assets

The net gain recognised on scheme assets has been restricted because the full pension surplus is not expected to be recovered through refunds or reduced contributions in the future.

# PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

#### 20 Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		615,920	451,563
Adjusted for:			
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income		(538,048)	(549,228)
Investment income receivable	6	(24,348)	(25,664)
Finance costs payable		-	1,864
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	19	(19,000)	(17,000)
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	19	19,000	30,000
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		501,047	512,648
(Increase)/decrease in stocks		(4,134)	389
Decrease/(increase) in debtors		563,264	(874,124)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors		(414,612)	302,296
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>		<b>699,089</b>	<b>(167,256)</b>

#### 21 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2024 £	Cash flows £	31 August 2025 £
Cash	998,820	336,579	1,335,399

#### 22 Related party transactions

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

No related party transactions took place in the period of account, other than certain trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 10.

#### 23 Capital commitments

	2025 £	2024 £
Expenditure contracted for but not provided in the financial statements	19,355	680,631

The capital commitment at the year end relates to the construction of the 3G pitch. Of this amount, 76% will be funded through a grant received from the Football Foundation.

# **PRESDALES SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST**

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025***

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### **24 Members' liability**

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