

Stamford Park Trust

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2025

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Reference and Administrative Details

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Members	<p>P M Claus K Trelfa C A Lyness J M Nevin P Catterall (Appointed 5 September 2024)</p>
Trustees	<p>S Foote (Chair) C Challenger M Gill K Mandviwala A McGrath (Chief Executive Officer) S Pleasant M Sugden J Barker K Aspin (Resigned 14 August 2025) P Ingham (Appointed 5 September 2024, Resigned 12 November 2025) L Stafford (Appointed 5 September 2024) S Buller (Appointed 12 March 2025, Resigned 13 August 2025) C Thomas (Appointed 12 March 2025) D Saxon (Appointed 1 September 2025)</p>
Clerk to the Trustees	C J Wright
Senior Leadership Team	<p>J Heard Jones (Interim Chief Executive Officer) (Accounting Officer from 27 November 2025) A McGrath (Chief Executive Officer) (Accounting Officer until 26 November 2025) J Dunkerley (Chief Finance & Operating Officer) M Wicks (Executive Principal, Secondary) L Richards (Centre Principal)</p>
Company name	Stamford Park Trust
Principal and Registered Office	<p>Ashton Sixth Form College Darnton Road Ashton-Under-Lyne Lancashire OL6 9RL</p>
Company Registration Number	11736886 (England and Wales)
Independent Auditor	<p>Murray Smith LLP Darland House 44 Winnington Hill Northwich Cheshire CW8 1AU</p>

Reference and Administrative Details For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Bankers

Barclays Bank PLC
1 Central Street
The Rock
Bury BL9 0JN

Solicitors

Eversheds
Eversheds House
70 Great Bridgewater Street
Manchester M1 5ES

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year to 31 August 2025. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report and a directors' report under company law.

The Trust operates a sixth form college in Ashton-under-Lyne, with capacity for approximately 2,500 16-19 students, current roll of 2,200 students, and provision for adult and higher education, current roll of 138 higher education learners. It also operates three secondary schools - Longdendale High School, Rayner Stephens High School in Hyde and Dukinfield and Fairfield High School for Girls in Droylsden joined the Trust on the 1 September 2024. The three schools have a combined pupil capacity of 2,650 and a combined roll of 2,430 on the school census in October 2025.

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the Academy Trust. The trustees of Stamford Park Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company operates as Stamford Park Trust, Ashton Sixth Form College, Longdendale High School, Rayner Stephens High School and Fairfield High School for Girls.

Details of the trustees who served during the period, 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 Trust through its Articles indemnified its Trustees to the fullest extent permissible by law. During the period the Trust also purchased and maintained liability insurance for its Trustees.

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

The Members may appoint by ordinary resolution up to 13 trustees. Providing that the Chief Executive Officer agrees so to act, the Members may by ordinary resolution appoint the Chief

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Executive Officer as a trustee. Members take into consideration the skills and experience required by the Trust and seek to match those requirements when considering an appointment.

In circumstances where the Trustees have not appointed Local Governing Bodies, or if no provision is made for at least 2 Parent Local Governors on each established Local Governing Body, there shall be a minimum of two Parent Trustees.

Currently there are no Parent Trustees, as there are appropriately constituted Local Governing Bodies. Parent Trustees and Parent Local Governors shall be elected or, if the number of parents, or individuals exercising parental responsibility, standing for election is less than the number of vacancies, appointed (in accordance with the terms of reference determined by the Trustees from time to time). The elected or appointed Parent Trustees must be a parent, or an individual exercising parental responsibility, of a registered pupil at an Academy within the Trust at the time of the appointment. The Chair of each Local Governing Body for the schools will be selected by the Trust Board.

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees

Trustees are appointed based on the skills that they will bring to the Board.

New trustees receive an induction pack and have a series of meetings with relevant officers of the Trust. Ongoing training is provided through external courses or internal updates based on specific aspects of the Trust's activities and regulatory environment.

Organisational Structure

The Board of Trustees has approved a scheme of delegation that sets out the decisions that must be reserved for the Board of Trustees and those that can be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, the Committees of the Academy Trust or the Governing Bodies of the individual academies.

Key decisions that must be made by the Board of Trustees include:

- the approval of the annual budget and financial forecast for the Academy Trust
- agreeing the scheme of delegation
- approving the annual report and accounts of the Academy Trust
- determining and approving Academy Trust wide policies
- agreeing the risk assurance framework

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For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

- appointing the Chief Executive Officer, the Executive Principal, the Chief Operating Officer and Clerk to the Academy Trust
- appointing the Head Teacher/Centre Principal of academies within the Academy Trust.

The Chief Executive Officer is also the Academy Trust's Accounting Officer and is responsible to Parliament for the use made of public funds provided for the education of students of the Academy Trust.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration packages of key management personnel are subject to annual review by the Remuneration Committee of the governing body who use benchmarking information to provide objective guidance. The CEO reports to the Chair of Trustees, who undertakes an annual review of his performance against the Trust's overall objectives using both qualitative and quantitative measures of performance.

Trade Union Facility Time

This information is published in accordance with the provisions of the Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2017 because the Academy Trust had a full-time equivalent employee number of more than 49 throughout the entirety of any seven months within the relevant period.

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	Full-time equivalent employee number
3	2.7

Percentage of time on facilities time

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

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For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Percentage of pay bill spent of facilities time

Metric	Figures
Total cost of facilities time (hourly cost x time on facilities time)	£10,148
Total pay bill	£27,809,025
Provide the percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time, calculated as: (total cost of facility time ÷ total pay bill) x 100	0.036

Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

The Trust has no related parties or connected charities or organisations.

Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)

Weekly staff briefings are used to update staff and regular emails provide additional information, advice and support where needed.

Trust representatives meet regularly with trade union representatives under formal and informal agreements. Staff are consulted as a matter of course on issues that affect their employment and may meet Trust representatives with a trade union support if they wish.

A grievance policy, single equality scheme and disciplinary policy are in place and are regularly reviewed by the Trust Board. Staff also have access to an independent, 24-hour confidential helpline.

The Trust's recruitment procedures ensure that applications from disabled people that meet the selection criteria are prioritised for interview. Wherever possible, the workplace environment and working practices will be adapted to ensure that disabled staff may properly perform their duties. The Trust has also signed up to the Disability Confident Employer scheme and is an accredited "Disability Confident Committed" employer.

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

The Trust has conducted its affairs with regard to the need to foster good business relationships with suppliers, customers and others. The Trust ensures a fair and equitable procurement of goods and services via adherence to its procurement policy and financial procedures. The Trust is a member of a purchasing consortium and has used its procurement frameworks to purchase goods during the year. Weekly invoice payments are made to suppliers and a regular review of aged creditor analysis ensures that any outstanding invoices are identified and dealt with.

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The Trust's customers are its pupils, students, parents and the local community. The Trust publishes information about the Trust and its schools and college on its website and provides parents, pupils and students with regular information regarding the life of the college or school. Parents are kept informed of their children's academic progress via parents' evenings and communications from teaching staff. Parent governor representation on local governing bodies ensures a parental input into local decision making.

Objects and Aims

The Academy Trust's objects as set out in the Articles of Association are as follows:

- A. 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 schools offering a broad and balanced curriculum ("**the mainstream Academies**") or educational institutions which are principally concerned with providing full-time or part-time education for children of compulsory school age who, by reason of illness, exclusion from school or otherwise, may not for any period receive suitable education unless alternative provision is made for them ("**the alternative provision Academies**") or 16 to 19 Academies offering a curriculum appropriate to the needs of its students ("**the 16 to 19 Academies**") or schools specially organised to make special educational provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs ("**the Special Academies**") and
- B. to promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of the area served by the Academies the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have the need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said inhabitants.

The Purpose of Stamford Park Trust

Stamford Park Trust exists to improve the life chances of all students in the Trust. It aims to add social value through working effectively with educational establishments in the Trust with an unflinching focus on quality improvement. We aim to improve the quality of leadership and management across the Trust through support and challenge, and to provide a broad and balanced curriculum to support positive progression, the realising of ambition and strong wellbeing. In other words, we aim to develop engaged and engaging young people with a stake in their futures and their communities.

It should be noted that sustainable and planned growth is important for Stamford Park Trust at the expense of growth for its own sake. The Members and Trustees are mindful of the need to create

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capacity and develop expertise across the Trust in order to meet the overall vision of providing excellence for all.

Whilst the focus of Stamford Park Trust will be the Tameside Borough, interest in joining the Trust from outside of the local authority areas will be seriously considered within a 30-minute travel time from the college. In addition, applications from primary school or other post 16 providers would also be considered carefully.

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

The Vision

The vision for Stamford Park Trust is simply articulated as *Excellence and ambition for all*.

Our ambition

Our ambition is best demonstrated through the following:

- Reaching more students: to reach 5,500 students by 2026/27
- Stronger outcomes: by 2025/26 we want to see students making better progress with higher attainment more consistently
- Greater co-operation and collaboration: by 2026/27 we want to share the best of the Trust across all our academies to make sure that all students and staff have access to the very best education and opportunities.
- Making the Trust a great place to work: with a culture of trust, collaboration, innovation and investment.

Key Elements of Our Vision: the Trust we will become

In meeting our vision to provide excellence and ambition for all, we will:

- Establish a dynamic Trust capable of building on its success, extending its influence and making a significant contribution within Greater Manchester;
- Establish Academies which are centres of excellence and innovation for leadership, teaching and learning and collaboration;
- Support the development of a coherent curriculum which supports strong transition to the next phase of education and prepares all for the next stage of their life;
- To encourage the realising of ambition and taking of opportunity and the strengthening of wellbeing;

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- Be driven by a moral purpose to transform the life chances and opportunities of all children and young people in the Trust;
- Work in partnership and collaboration across the Trust to develop a Trust identity aimed at improving achievement and aiding development aimed at improving achievement and aiding the development of all;
- Work in partnership with Higher Education and business to secure strong progression opportunities for every student in the Trust.

Our Values: the key factors underpinning the way we work

As a Trust family of Academies, we

- are student centred and inclusive;
- have a culture of trust and respect;
- believe in a collegiate and collaborative approach to quality improvement and innovation;
- are unashamedly aspirational and ambitious for all ;
- are supportive yet challenging

Our strategic aims:

Strategic Aim 1

To develop and build a strong and flexible infrastructure for Stamford Park Trust to enable diversification into other phases of education

- 1.1 To further develop relationships within the Trust across all Academies, to build capacity and provide support and challenge to improve and consolidate the Quality of Education through good and outstanding primary and secondary schools choosing to join the Trust
- 1.2 To grow to a minimum of five academies by the end of the strategic and growth plan at a considered pace to ensure that capacity remains available for support and quality improvement, as appropriate
- 1.3 To further develop Trust wide central services to create efficient and effective support services and a coherent central services team serving the whole Trust

Strategic Aim 2

To raise attainment, improve progression and create well-rounded students who are well-prepared to make a positive contribution to society in each academy across the Trust

- 2.1 To improve and maintain attainment, progress and value added across the Trust to at least national benchmarks for all students, including SEND, Pupil Premium and Disadvantaged groups of students (as appropriate)

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- 2.2 To deliver a holistic education diet for all students which provides opportunities for the development of cultural capital and meaningful enrichment
- 2.3 To ensure that all Academies in the Trust are rated good or better by Ofsted by the end of this plan
- 2.4 To improve attendance for all cohorts of students to at least national benchmarks

Strategic Aim 3

To ensure an excellent standard of teaching, learning and assessment across the Trust

- 3.1 To embed a Trust wide accountability framework for teaching, learning and assessment excellence which is understood by all teaching staff in the Trust
- 3.2 To embed good practice sharing opportunities across the Trust to encourage innovation in teaching, learning and assessment
- 3.3 To identify CPD needs across the Trust, deliver bespoke training using up-to-date research and evaluate the impact of the training on the quality of teaching, learning and assessment across the Trust

Strategic Aim 4

To attract, recruit and retain outstanding staff across all role types in the Trust

- 4.1 To develop a robust people strategy for the Trust to identify and recruit outstanding candidates, to provide career progression opportunities for all and to drive strong succession planning for the future for the Trust
- 4.2 To develop and embed secondary phase initial teacher training within the Trust through the development of a SCITT or in partnership with an existing provider
- 4.3 To establish an attractive career rewards package to support the retention and development of all staff across the Trust and drive further improvement in all aspects of Trust activity
- 4.4 To establish a Trust-wide well-being strategy to support our colleagues in each of our academies

Strategic Aim 5

To consolidate strong leadership and governance across Stamford Park Trust

- 5.1 To embed a full Trust-wide understanding of the Trust vision and strategic and growth plans
- 5.2 To consolidate clear and understood lines of accountability across the Trust in both governance and leadership at all levels, and develop strong succession planning, through the identification of skills needs across both governance and leadership
- 5.3 To further develop the quality of reporting to Trustees and Governors to embed critical challenge and strengthen accountability through an improved knowledge of each academy in the Trust.

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Strategic Aim 6

To ensure the operational sustainability of the Trust

- 6.1 To ensure that the Trust is financially healthy through prudent financial management
- 6.2 To embed risk management based on the identified risk appetite for the Trust
- 6.3 To maintain fully costed financial plans for the Trust to improve facilities and support its strategic development, including estates and facilities management, IT services.

Strategic Aim 7

To embed Trust academies in their local communities

- 7.1 To develop community hubs in each Trust academy to improve community links in the local area through increased use of Trust facilities by external agencies and increased lettings revenue
- 7.2 To encourage / promote engagement with local services for parents and carers and other members of the local community at Trust academies through the use of our estate
- 7.3 To further establish the Trust's identity and reputation

Public Benefit

Stamford Park Trust is an exempt charity and is regulated by the Secretary of State for Education. The members of the Governing Body, who are trustees of the charity, are disclosed on page 1.

In setting and reviewing the Academy Trust's strategic objectives, the trustees have had due regard for the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and particularly upon its supplementary guidance on the advancement of education. The guidance sets out the requirement that all organisations wishing to be recognised as charities must demonstrate, explicitly, that their aims are for the public benefit.

In delivering its strategic objectives, the Academy Trust provides the following identifiable public benefits through the advancement of education:

- High quality teaching
- Widening participation, tackling social exclusion and supporting the realising of ambition
- Excellent and positive progression for students to employment, higher level apprenticeships or higher education
- Strong student support systems
- Links with employers, industry, higher education and commerce
- Links with local community groups and sports clubs

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Strategic Report

Achievement and Performance

During 2025 the Trust continued to deliver the strategic and growth plans agreed by the Trust Board. Discussions were held with a number of local secondary and primary schools with the aim of increasing the number of academies in our Trust. Fairfield High School for Girls joined the Trust on the 1st September 2024 taking the number of academies to four. Further development includes the application for two primary schools to join the Trust currently waiting for DFE approval, with the possibility of another primary school submitting an application to join.

Outcomes across all academies improved, but further improvements in examination results are needed at both Rayner Stephens and Longdendale High Schools. Rayner Stephens High School was inspected and improved to Requires Improvement with good for personal development. Results at Ashton Sixth Form College were strong, with exceptional performance across BTEC courses, GCSE resits in English and maths and the first cohort of T level outcomes. Personal development of students across our Trust was further developed to ensure that we meet our aim to educate the whole student during their time at school or college.

Significant funds were invested in CPD for all staff in the last year. Work on a cross Trust People strategy was paused due to a change in staffing in our HR department. This will continue in the next year. Discussions with Staffordshire University took place last year with the aim of reintroducing secondary ITT (Initial Teacher Training). Further work on this will continue this year.

Risk management was further refined across the Trust and financial management improved with the introduction of fully electronic systems for budgeting and monthly monitoring.

Further planned changes in the Trust's central team was planned to support further growth and enable the effective delivery of key services.

Ashton Sixth Form College

Outcomes across all level 3 programme types in 2024/5 ranged between good and outstanding at Ashton Sixth Form College. In addition, the GCSE resit programme (Maths and English) was again, very successful with pass grades (9-4) significantly above national averages. Two-year retention has been a challenge post-pandemic, so it is now pleasing to see retention rates continue to improve. Two year retention was 2.7% better in July 2025 than at the same point in 2023/24 academic year. We have therefore seen an improvement in both retention AND final results across all qualification types. During 2024/5, the college offered predominantly level three qualifications, with a very small number of students (19) taking a full level 2 course which is no longer offered from September 2025. The summary of outcomes in different qualification types is outlined below.

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A Level

A Level performance is good with a pass rate of 99%, an A*-C rate of 79% and a high grade (A*-B) rate of 52%. All three measures are an increase on 2024 outcomes. Both the pass rate and the A*-C rate are above the national average and the A* - B rate is 3% below, although the cohort has a GCSE starting point of just below the national sixth form average. Nonetheless, pushing up A*-B grades to at least the national average is a target going forward. Value-added (progress) is currently Alps 4 (top 40% in the country), although this is a 'customer benchmark' and compares the college only to other providers who have sent in their results for analysis. For comparison, 2024 value-added was Alps 5 (top 55%). The Six Dimensions measure compares ASFC to all other sixth forms, and this shows us to be -0.03, so around the mean performance for the cohort we have. Both value-added/progress measures show an improvement from 2024. Overall, a positive set of results.

BTEC and other L3 vocational

Performance across BTEC programmes is excellent, with a 99% pass rate across all types and size of course and an overall high grade rate (Distinction*/Distinction) of 90% for Extended Diplomas and 72% for Extended Certificates. Both are the highest the college has ever achieved since the move to RQF BTECs and this high grade achievement compares very well to national figures.

T Levels in Education and Health each have very strong outcomes, with 47% of all T Level students achieving Distinction grades, almost double the % nationally for these two programmes (DfE data, September 2025).

Again, value-added/progress is very strong with Alps 2 (top 10%) for vocational and a positive score for T Level.

Results are outstanding on the Cache Level 3 Diploma in Childcare/Education and Health and Social Care qualifications (both of which are now phased out, this being the final cohort). Both qualifications came out as Alps 1, meaning that we are the best provider in the country this year for these qualifications.

Level 2: GCSE courses

Outstanding outcomes across GCSE resit courses in Maths and English. In Maths, 51% students achieved the required grade 4 (national average for 17 year olds was 17%) and 63% passed their English at grade 4 or above (compared to the national average of 21% for 17 year olds).

Level 2 vocational

We offered just one level course (L2 BTEC Early Years Practitioner) in 2024/5 for full time level 2 students. 19 students started, with 13 of these having GCSEs below the entry requirements for the course (8 students had a GCSE Maths grade 1 or 2). 3 students left early, 16 students completed and 12 students passed (the four who failed did not pass the compulsory examination but did well on

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

coursework and placement). 100% of those who passed achieved either a Merit or Distinction. We are no longer running this programme as we have recognised that there is too significant a gap in level between this and the T Level suite of qualifications that have now replaced the BTEC options.

Longdendale

Longdendale High School is slightly below average sized 11-16 comprehensive high school (793 students) with a high percentage of students (34%) eligible for Pupil Premium funding. 34.3% of students are currently eligible for free school meals (National Average 22.7% - Jan 2023). In recent years, there has been a change in the school demographics with rising PP numbers. The school was inspected more recently in March 2025 and was graded as 'Requires Improvement' for Quality of Education, with Good for Behaviour and Attitude, Personal Development and Leadership. Improvements that have been made were recognised during the inspection and reflected in the final report.

Students transferred from 30 different Primary Schools in September 2025. Students' primary scaled scores and average point scores vary slightly in each cohort but are consistently in line with or slightly above national average.

Most students (92.5%) at Longdendale are White British, with the proportion of students from minority ethnic groups or who speak English as an additional language significantly below the national average at 3%. The proportion of special educational needs is 12.2% (9.3% SEND support (74 students) and 2.9% with an EHCP (23 students)) is in line with that found nationally.

Longdendale is an outward facing school and alongside collaborative working with other schools and colleges within our Trust is part of the Tameside and Oldham subject network hubs; works with a range of SLEs to share best practice and support accelerated improvement; part of the North West 2 Maths Hub with a focus on developing maths mastery; collaborate with the East Manchester Teaching School Hub and one of the Assistant Headteachers is a facilitator for an NPQ programme. The school currently holds: the IQM Award and has been designated as a national Flagship School for Inclusion.

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Headline Performance measures 24/25

Headline Measure	22/23 Exams	23/24 Exams	24/25 Exams	Targets
Average Total Attainment 8	41.04	42.43	41.01	42.0 - 45.0
Average KS2 Prior Attainment	105	105	101	
Students Achieving 9-7 in English and Maths	4.9	6.6	8.6	10-15%
Students Achieving 9-7 in English	21.5	29.5	25	20-25%
Students Achieving 9-7 in Maths	6.1	9	10	10-15%
Students Achieving 9-5 in English and Maths	31.9	37.3	32.1	35-40%
Students Achieving 9-5 in English	60.7	66.9	60.7	50-55%
Students Achieving 9-5 in Maths	35.6	39.2	33.6	45-50%
Students Achieving 9-4 in English and Maths	62.6	59	53.6	60-65%
Students Achieving 9-4 in English	76.1	81.3	70	75-80%
Students Achieving 9-4 in Maths	65.6	59	55	60-65%
Students in COHORT Achieving the EBacc (Strong)	7.4	10.8	15.7	
Students in COHORT Achieving the EBacc (Standard)	16	19.9	27.9	
Average English Attainment 8 Grade	4.92	5.16	4.91	
Average Maths Attainment 8 Grade	3.94	3.89	3.78	
Average EBacc Attainment 8 Grade	3.7	3.79	3.75	
Average Open Attainment 8 Grade	4.08	4.32	4.13	

Progress since the previous inspection

- Pupils behave well in class and around school. This has been reflected in the significant decline in the number of students being removed from lessons. In comparison to autumn 2024 the number of students removed from lessons have declined by 64%. This is helping to reduce low-level disruption and improve attention in classrooms which will contribute towards all our AFIs.
- The rewards systems has been embedded to provide regular opportunities for students to receive recognition which is contributing towards creating a positive school environment.
- Most teachers design effective learning and check for gaps in pupils' understanding. This is helping to deepen pupils' knowledge and progress. However, some teachers are still developing the necessary expertise to deliver their subject curriculums well. To address this for AFI1, we have transitioned towards the use of booklets in EBACC subjects to reduce variability in curriculum delivery.
- The introduction of teacher intellectual preparation is supporting the focus on AF1 to ensure that all teachers spend time thinking deeply about curriculum delivery. During curriculum

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intellectual preparation leaders spend time with their colleagues reviewing how to deliver specific knowledge in the curriculum.

- The new inclusion strategy is in the early stages of implementation but is focused on ensuring that all staff know how to apply it so that pupils with SEND get the full support they need to be successful as outlined in AF2. We have focused on providing drip fed CPD with a SEND focused teaching / practice lab during the half term and training on how to use adaptive teaching as part of the booklet approach. A new inclusion referral form alongside a whole school tracker will provide swift identification of students who may require additional support to achieve well across their curriculum offer. We have focused on the implementation of TAs in lessons using active observation to ensure students receive timely and purpose adaptations that enable them to be successful.

Rayner Stephens High School

- Rayner Stephens High School is a below average sized 11-16 comprehensive high school (640 students) with a significantly high percentage of students (49%) eligible for Pupil Premium funding. 44% of these students are currently eligible for free school meals, which is well above the national average. The school is rapidly increasing student numbers, due to the improving reputation.
- The school was last inspected in September 2023 and was graded as Requires Improvement for quality of education, behaviour and attitudes and leadership with good for Personal Development. Improvements that have been made were recognised during the inspection and reflected in the final report. The school was awarded the Inclusion Quality Mark Flagship Status in May 2024
- Students transferred from 35 different Primary Schools in September 2025. Student's primary scaled scores and average point scores vary slightly in each cohort but are consistently below national average. The majority of students in the school are White British and significantly higher number of girls than boys on roll. The proportion of students from minority ethnic groups or who speak English as an additional language is below the national average but is increasing over time. The number of students identified with SEND needs and those in receipt of an EHCP have significantly increased. Nearly 25% of the schools population has identified SEND needs (128 students for SEN Support and 28 students with an EHCP), this is above the national average.
- The school has worked with a number of partners on the school improvement journey including the Local Authority, Teach First Leading Together Programme, Behaviour Hub Partner School, Oldham Research School and University College London, North West Maths Hub and the Tameside and Oldham subject and leadership networks, East MCR Teaching

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school Hub. The school is also part of the DfE RISE programme (June 2025) with a focus on improving outcomes in Maths, English and attendance.

Headline Performance Measures

Headline Measure	22/23 Exams	23/24 Exams	24/25 Exams	Targets
Average Total Attainment 8	33.99	34.13	35.53	38.0 - 40.0
Average Attainment 8 Grade	3.4	3.41	3.55	
Average KS2 Prior Attainment	103	103	98	
Students Achieving 9-7 in English and Maths	1.9	1.6	7	0-5%
Students Achieving 9-7 in English	9.3	8.9	13.4	5-10%
Students Achieving 9-7 in Maths	3.7	8.1	10.6	5-10%
Students Achieving 9-5 in English and Maths	29.6	25	28.9	25-30%
Students Achieving 9-5 in English	43.5	45.2	44.4	40-45%
Students Achieving 9-5 in Maths	32.4	28.2	33.1	30-35%
Students Achieving 9-4 in English and Maths	41.7	44.4	46.5	50-55%
Students Achieving 9-4 in English	54.6	62.9	60.6	65-70%
Students Achieving 9-4 in Maths	47.2	50	48.6	55-60%
Students in COHORT Achieving the EBacc (Strong Pass)	9.3	6.5	6.3	
Students in COHORT Achieving the EBacc (Standard Pass)	16.7	9.7	9.9	
Average English Attainment 8 Grade	3.92	3.95	4.12	
Average Maths Attainment 8 Grade	3.35	3.26	3.55	
Average EBacc Attainment 8 Grade	3.04	3.09	3.35	
Average Open Attainment 8 Grade	3.45	3.48	3.38	

Progress Since the last inspection

- The full 5 year reviewed and renewed curriculum is now well embedded: 5-year mapped curriculum and journey in place for all subjects. Curriculum Research Time (CRT) protected in the timetable to allow all departments to regularly review their curriculum. Topic Overviews and Knowledge Organisers in places for every topic, in every subject, in every year group. Improved consistency in the SLT and HOD curriculum implementation and impact quality assurance processes. 3Rs Curriculum review system (Retrieve, Re-Teach, Re-Plan) well embedded. Departmental links now established across the Trust schools to enable ongoing curriculum development and resource sharing greater amount of departmental CPD time has been made available to supplement the protected Curriculum Research Time. Computing at KS4 for all students has been increased through the iDea Award being completed by all students

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

in Year 10. RS has been further established for all students in KS4 through a greater focus on RS topics in PSHE and the Assembly schedule.

- Extensive CPD programme in place focussed on the effective model of learning and the development of expert teaching. Full developmental CPD programme carried out with all teachers based on Rosenshine's Principles of Instruction and the effective model of learning. Full instructional coaching model embedded across the school with all teachers involved in the three weekly coaching cycle. Teacher Development Trust Silver Award for the quality of the CPD programme. Teaching and Learning Coaches all trained and quality assured before becoming coaches of other teachers. Engagement with the Walkthrus in Action programme, with all teachers well-resourced with Walkthrus / TLAC / T+L Playbooks and a new online Teaching and Learning Hub which are all used to support the CPD programme. SSAT Middle Leadership course undertaken by all middle leaders with a focus on developing high quality teaching. High teacher retention rates / low staff turnover supports with the consistency and ongoing improvements.
- Topics in every subject for every year group clearly identify the key knowledge and key skills required to gain 'mastery' are pre-identified and communicated before planning and teaching begins. The key knowledge and skills identification are then used to drive the assessment model and activities for each topic. Knowledge organisers developed and used to support the acquisition of the key knowledge for each topic. An innovative data collection, GAP identification and curriculum review system has been developed and allows for teachers/HODs/ SLT links to quickly and effectively identify GAPS and review curriculum delivery and assessment through the 3Rs process. Whole class feedback process in place for all subjects following every topic supported by HOD/SLT feedback QA processes. Subject specific feedback policies have been developed to ensure that feedback is tailored and effective to the nuances of each subject. CPD and coaching focus on effective methods for checking for understanding has been the primary focus of the programmes.
- The model of attendance tracking and intervention has been developed using the DfE Attendance Hub model and resources, in conjunction with the North West Attendance Hub. External support has been brokered through 'Inclusive Attendance' which has been instrumental in starting to change the culture and mentality around attendance for all staff, students and parents/carers and as part of the DfE RISE programme. Full attendance audits and regular attendance reviews are carried out in partnership with Inclusive Attendance and the Trust to identify key target groups. Full Attendance Implementation Plan in place to support the whole school development plan. Expanded attendance team in place which has included the addition of a 'Safeguarding and Attendance Family Liaison Officer' (SAFLO). Close working relationship with the Education Welfare Service who provide targeted support services for the school. Additional resources available to drive the positive praise and rewards

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

programme relating to attendance including 'No Learning Lost' campaign in place in school to raise awareness and to tackle all elements of attendance and the school day that may result in any learning time being lost. Development of a Personalised Learning Centre to support school refusers and low attenders back into school.

Fairfield High School for Girls

Fairfield is an average sized 11-16 comprehensive high school (997 pupils). Fairfield High School for Girls is one of the oldest girls' schools in the country, with an ethos of high aspiration for the girls and the community they serve. In September 2024, Fairfield joined Stamford Park Trust. The school was last inspected in December 2022, they were recognised as providing an outstanding quality of education, with all other areas being awarded a good judgement.

The school is oversubscribed every year with typically 300+ applications for 199 places. Pupils transferred from 32 primary schools in September 2025 (24 are feeder primaries). The intake of the school has been consistently just above average in terms of KS2 attainment. Fairfield is a fully inclusive school and outcomes for different pupil groups are positive. There are 1.9% Pupils with an EHCP and there are 0.5% who are LAC. 12.63% have SEND status, 12.6% of pupils come from an ethnic minority background, the majority being of Pakinstani or Black African or Chinese heritage. 37.4% are disadvantaged and 37.4% designated FSM. As a girls' school, pupils have been disproportionately impacted by issues relating to mental health and wellbeing following the pandemic. Nationally, absence rates have risen for girls, which has impacted on attendance.

The school is outward facing, with staff also employed to work with the North West Maths Hubs and contribute to developing practice in other schools. The school is leading and participating in the 'Right to Succeed' KS3 Literacy Project in Tameside. Fairfield is a Voice 21 school and has been recognised as an Oracy Centre of Excellence. Fairfield, alongside SPT is a strategic partner in the East Manchester Teaching School Hub. Fairfield is the host school for SPT Lead Practioners on Maths, English and Science – these staff work across the secondary schools in the Trust to provide bespoke support in their subject areas.

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Headline Measures 24/25

Headline Measure	22/23 Exams	23/24 Exams	24/25 Exams
Average Total Attainment 8	56.7	55.29	52.59
Average KS2 Prior Attainment	106	106	103
Students Achieving 9-7 in English and Maths	19.5	22	17.9
Students Achieving 9-7 in English	47.9	46.1	40.8
Students Achieving 9-7 in Maths	22.1	25.1	21.4
Students Achieving 9-5 in English and Maths	63.7	65.4	58.2
Students Achieving 9-5 in English	82.6	80.6	79.6
Students Achieving 9-5 in Maths	64.7	66.5	60.7
Students Achieving 9-4 in English and Maths	79.5	79.6	78.1
Students Achieving 9-4 in English	90	89.5	89.3
Students Achieving 9-4 in Maths	81.6	81.2	81.1
Students in COHORT Achieving the EBacc (Strong Pass)	35.8	35.6	33.2
Students in COHORT Achieving the EBacc (Standard Pass)	54.7	47.6	45.9
Average English Attainment 8 Grade	6.22	6.07	5.88
Average Maths Attainment 8 Grade	5.06	5.21	5.05
Average EBacc Attainment 8 Grade	5.43	5.24	5.05
Average Open Attainment 8 Grade	5.95	5.67	5.19

**FGS did not previously set targets for performance*

Progress since the last inspection

- Attendance is understood and actioned as a whole school priority and responsibility, CPD continues to be delivered to staff. The Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral) is the SLT link and leads on attendance and punctuality, working with an Attendance Officer (a new position in the pastoral team) and SENDCo. Strengthened systems and operational processes (new policy and practice from Sept. '25) with daily analysis and action at all levels to respond to individuals across all year groups. An extended form time at the start of the day has strengthened the school's response to absence.
- The second whole school improvement target is to strengthen culture and belonging: Development of the 'Fairfield Way' to communicate signals of belonging. Members of the senior team (AHTs) lead on personal development, SMSC, British Values and pupil wellbeing across the school. There are clear channels of reporting for pupils to flag concerns, either by talking with staff, the website or intranet. There are frequent reminders of these channels through assemblies and Form time, through the year.

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

- The Life Skills (PSCHEE) curriculum includes teaching about stereotypes, discrimination, ableism, and disability discrimination, the Equality Act and protected characteristics, rights across the world and the UK, gender equality and identity, racism and a diversity. A distinct unit teaches about multicultural Britain and British Values. This is a spiral curriculum, revisiting and building on prior learning and understanding. A subject review of personal development stated '...the approach to personal development at Fairfield is wide and is visionary.' (April 2025). SMSC is embedded across the wider taught curriculum and co-curricular opportunities. In particular, the cultural understanding, British Values and Prevent duty. The school has established the role of Equality and Diversity Prefects, who lead on events such as Heritage Days.

Going Concern

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

Promoting the success of the Academy Trust

The Academy Trust's core objective is providing all its students with the very best opportunity to maximise their achievements and life chances. The Academy Trust therefore has a keen focus on ensuring that teachers have a passion for and love of learning and that mechanisms are in place to allow the sharing of good practice amongst colleagues to support the goal of continual improvement. In all decision making the Trustees have regard to the long term consequences. The Trust has a strategic plan to which Trustees have regard when considering Trust business. Trustees also take decisions with regard to their responsibilities, including those set out in the Trust's Articles of Association, The Academies Trust Handbook and Trust policies. This ensures high standards of business conduct are maintained within the Trust and between Trustees.

The Trust is aware of its impact on the local community – many employees, Trustees, students and parents live in the locality and feedback from stakeholders is encouraged via the local governing body members (including parent governors), meetings with students and parents and other members of the community.

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Financial Review

The Trust is primarily funded by the Department for Education with the majority of income in the form of recurrent grants for the provision of education for 11-19 year olds. In addition, it receives a small grant for the provision of adult education. The Trust also earns tuition fee income, primarily in respect of HE and FE loan supported courses.

In the year ended 31 August 2025 the Trust generated a surplus (excluding the impact of depreciation, transfers from existing academy trusts and actuarial pension movements) of £2,279,501 (2024: £1,450,769).

Capital Investment

At Ashton Sixth Form College the only project remaining from the existing property strategy is in respect of the Sports Hall. This work has started and expected completion date is October 2025. The design and build is for a significant redevelopment, incorporating additional classrooms and gym on a mezzanine level. The estimated cost is of the order of £3.5m.

To address the immediate space needs of the expanding student population, four temporary modular classrooms have been installed, and are being rented for a period of three years.

Reserves Policy

The Trust has a formal Reserves Policy, to ensure three months staffing costs are covered by reserves, as well as recognising the importance of reserves in the financial stability of any organisation, and ensures that there are adequate reserves to support the Trust's core activity. It is the Board's intention to increase reserves over the life of the strategic plan through the generation of annual operating surpluses.

At 31 August 2025, the Trust had Unrestricted Reserves of £3,249,852 (2024: £2,819,506), Restricted General Reserves (before pension asset) of £5,749,555 (2024: £5,071,955) and a Restricted Fixed Asset Reserve of £53,084,527 (2024: £38,649,707).

Investment Policy

Investment management is the management of the Trust's liquid and illiquid assets e.g. buildings, cash flows, its banking and the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.

The Trust has separate cash treasury management procedures in place. All borrowing requires the authorisation of the Trustees and shall comply with the requirements of the Funding Agreement and Academies Financial Handbook.

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The Trust has a robust risk management approach. The CEO maintains a risk register which is reviewed at Audit Committee. From the risk register, an action plan is extracted to minimise the risks and updated for every meeting. The current action plan has identified the following items as High or Medium risk to the Trust:

High risk

- A lack of growth for Stamford Park Trust.
- Failure to improve outcomes and the quality of Trust schools and colleges.

Medium risk

- A lack of engagement from local schools restricts growth opportunities.
- Failure to close gaps in performance for identified groups.
- Failure to secure succession arrangements for the Trust in key posts.

The surplus on the Trust's defined benefit schemes at 31 August 2025 was restricted to £nil (2024 nil), in line with "asset ceiling" reports from the actuaries. Potential future increases in employer pension contributions are considered as part of budget planning. Actual future increases identified as part of the local government pension fund three-yearly review are included within budget planning.

Fundraising

The majority of the Academy Trust's charitable income is received from the DfE under the terms of a master funding agreement between the Secretary of State for Education and the Trustees of Stamford Park Trust. Supplemental agreements are in place relating to the funding for Aston Sixth Form College, Longdendale High School, Rayner Stephens High School and Fairfield High School for Girls.

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

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting

UK Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data for the period	1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025	1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024
Energy consumption breakdown (kWh)		
• Gas	2,045,340	2,152,008
• Electricity	2,043,855	1,996,420
• Transport fuel	14,197	13,651
<u>Scope 1 emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e</u>		
Gas consumption	374.22	392.83
Owned transport – mini-buses	1.74	1.59
<u>Total scope 1</u>	375.96	394.42
<u>Scope 2 emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e</u>		
Purchased electricity	361.76	386.07
<u>Scope 3 emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e</u>		
<u>Business travel in employee owned vehicles</u>	2.61	2.27
<u>Total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e</u>	740.33	782.76
<u>Intensity ratio</u>		
<u>Tonnes CO₂ per pupil</u>	0.26	0.24

Quantification and Reporting Methodology: -

We have followed the 2019 HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines. We have also used the GHG Reporting Protocol – Corporate Standard and have used the 2025 UK Government's Conversion Factors for Company Reporting.

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Intensity measurement

The chosen intensity measurement ratio is total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO2e per pupil, the recommended ratio for the sector.

Measures taken to improve energy efficiency

The Trust has made use of video conferencing technology to reduce the number of offsite meetings and the need for travel. It has also replaced windows to help reduce thermal energy loss.

Plan For Future Periods

Stamford Park Trust

The Trust will continue to build relationships with local schools at both primary and secondary level with the aim of further expanding the size of our Trust.

Ashton Sixth Form College

- Continue to build upon the notable improvement in two year retention.
- Continue to improve high grades in A Levels to the national average (usually around 54/55%).
- Maintain red Alps (progress/value-added) in vocational courses.
- A focus upon attendance, as all aspects of outcomes are positively influenced by high attendance rates.
- Introduce and embed new strategies for attendance, cross college assessment and the student review system as well as rolling out the use of Power Bi across college to enhance 'live' monitoring of student data. Each of these new strategies has been designed to improve all aspects of outcomes listed above. Staff training in each area took place in July 2025 and was refreshed at the start of academic year 2025/6.
- Continue to enhance/develop the excellent provision offered in relation to careers/work experience, employability and student leadership.
- A medium- long term consideration of the curriculum in response to both local need and government decisions relating to the de-funding of some qualifications.
- Once the new build is opened (October 2025), undertake a full analysis of the site to ensure best use of each building and outdoor space.

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Astley Sports Village / Stamford Park Trust Sport, Community & Leisure

The dual used community & education model has now been embedded into Stamford Park Trust venues. There is a much improved and certainly a value-added feel and collective working from each of the school leadership and a much stronger working partnership with each of the venues site staff and sports departments.

Each venue over the past years has seen significant funding and community revenue re-investment, which has further enhanced the outstanding sport and physical activity facilities across Stamford Park Trust for both students and community users.

One of our key priorities for 24/25 was to create further and stronger partnerships and links with local agencies and sport/health organisations. These connections and working partnerships create an exciting journey of being a key component in their aims of engaging more people to be more active, more often and being part of the solution of creating more active, more resilient and more cohesive local communities around our Stamford Park Trust venues.

We are now on the Tameside MBC Active Alliance Steering Group for physical activity in Tameside. Alongside this we are also on the steering group for GM Moving Opening School Facilities Steering Group. We have also had our funding partnership renewed with Tameside MBC Holiday Activity Fund to provide high quality inclusive holiday camps for local children. Our partnership working with Tameside School Games is well embedded and stronger each year as we are now hosting over 20 primary school festivals across our venues which will welcome 60 - 80 primary school children to our venues per event.

Our significant re-investment and project for 25/26 is the high priority refurbishment of the existing 2G Astro Turf at Astley Sports Village/Rayner Stephens High School. Football Foundation have agreed to commence this funding bid, which with match funding from Stamford Park Trust/ASV reserves will welcome a £450k - £500k Football Foundation funding award to refurbish the 2G astro turf into a state-of-the-art 3G astro turf within the next 12-month period.

Fairfield High School transferred from a third-party lettings company on 1st July to ourselves and this has seen a significant performance turnaround with both usage levels now at 7 days a week featuring over 40 hours community use and a significant increase in revenue that in Summer 2026 an agreed amount will be re-invested into improving their facilities at no cost to the school.

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Longdendale High School has continued its community provision success with now a Wednesday and Thursday year round bookings and from October 25 to Easter 26 will see the return of community indoor cricket training return taking this venue to 6 days a week of indoor usage alongside the grass pitch community usage at weekends. Ashton Sixth Form College is also set for a successful 25/26 period with 4 evenings a week now hired for community junior and senior basketball alongside ladies indoor cricket training and weekend girls and boys grassroots football continuing for 25/26.

Longdendale High School

- CPD and coaching leads to high quality first teaching in all areas so that teachers are suitably equipped to deliver an inclusive curriculum well which will lead to improved provision and outcomes across subjects for all students.
- Assessment is used to accurately inform gaps and next steps in learning across all subjects leading to improved progress and outcomes at every stage through responsive teaching.
- Whole school CPD and subject specific pedagogy builds teachers and wider school staff understanding of how to effectively implement adaptation strategies to support all students to be successful.
- Reading and oracy is prioritised so that gaps in students reading knowledge is identified swiftly and tailored interventions remedy the gaps successfully.
- Outcomes improve in Maths and English at 5+ and gaps for DA and SEND learners reduce.

Rayner Stephens High School

- Significantly improve overall school attendance rates, fostering a culture of regular attendance among students, thereby promoting a conducive learning environment and supporting students' academic success and personal development.
- Behaviour support and intervention programmes effectively and efficiently implemented to ensure there is early identification and intervention further reducing repeat incidents, escalation of behaviours and the use of suspensions.
- Having a well embedded, ambitious curriculum which provides the knowledge and builds the cultural capital required for all students to succeed in life. Teachers and leaders create an environment that focuses on students and the effective use of checking for understanding and assessment ensures that teaching and the curriculum, is regularly adapted, reviewed and sequenced towards cumulatively sufficient knowledge and skills.
- Fostering a strong sense of belonging to Rayner Stephens High School for all students, staff, parents and carers with the result being a positive impact on student's academic performance, attendance, and social, emotional, and mental health.
- Outcomes improve in Maths and English at 4+ and 5+ and gaps for DA and SEND learners reduce.

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Fairfield High School for Girls

- Progress for all and expert teaching:** Clear Learning and Teaching CPD programme with a focus on, vocabulary, oracy and reading, behaviour for learning and how to complete a peer coaching inquiry and peer observations. The Successful Learner programme continues to be delivered through assemblies, Form time and the curriculum. The Successful Learner Programme website page was updated with resources. The literacy CPD programmes continues to be delivered in CPD sessions and by supporting Faculty leaders. Staff are completing peer observations and their peer coaching inquiry, supported by a Lead Practitioner. Voice 21 work focused on curriculum development with SEEU model resources being developed. Reading interventions to be effectively implemented - Reading Partners, Lexonic Leap, Student Support Interventions.
- Culture, behaviour and belonging including parental and community engagement:** Full evaluation of pastoral structures, procedures and standards. A full overhaul of systems and procedures have been introduced with staff, students and parents. Pastoral practice is a key improvement area for all staff and has been threaded into the CPD programme. Consistent classroom routines and responsive behaviour for learning strategies, with regular CPD, STAR drop-ins and QA completed through Curriculum Review. Developed 10 core routines for pupils, which have a script for staff, habits and actions for staff to follow. This is a significant CPD project with staff, establishing culture will take time and will be planned to ensure effective implementation and QA, alongside the introduction of Steplab and instructional coaching. The Confident Individual programme is developing confidence, leadership and wellbeing across the student population. The programme has successfully created a more connected and positive school culture, while also building valuable links with the wider community. Pupil Leadership: There has been a notable increase in pupil leadership opportunities, empowering students to take ownership and contribute meaningfully to school life. Staff CPD and Support: Staff have been well-supported in developing and expanding enrichment initiatives, such as the podcast and eco-club. Community and parental engagement events planned into the school calendar and SPT now manage the school lettings system, which has increased usage by the local community. Interform challenges and competitions have enhanced school spirit and built a stronger sense of community. Enjoyment and Pride: Events such as the Pride Picnic and Star Spotlight have brought fun and pride to school life, celebrating pupil achievements and fostering a joyful atmosphere. Wellbeing Strategies: Targeted mental health initiatives like Kindness Week, Thank a Teacher, Kooth webinars, and Positivity Pie workshops have boosted pupil confidence and promoted emotional wellbeing. Strengthened connections with the local community through collaborations with the Old Girls' association, Tameside Enrichment Partnership, and local enrichment providers and charities are now in place.
- Attendance and Punctuality:** Attendance continues to be a priority. Year 6 into Year 7 attendance home visits planned as part of the transition to school events. Structures are now in place to respond more effectively to poor attendance and punctuality. New attendance policy, systems and procedures have been launched in September and the school continues to

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

work with Inclusive attendance as part of its staff development plans for improving attendance to school.

Events Since the Year End

Information relating to events since the end of the period is given in the notes to the financial statements.

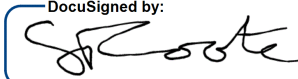
Auditor

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

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

The auditors, Murray Smith LLP, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

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

DocuSigned by:

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S Foote
Chair

Governance Statement

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Scope of Responsibility

As trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Stamford Park 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 Chief Executive Officer, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and are in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to the Academy Trust in the funding agreement between Stamford Park Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. The Chief Executive 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:

Trustee	Possible	Meetings Attended	% Att
Aspin, Kevin	6	1	17%
Barker, Jane	6	4	67%
Buller, Samantha	2	1	50%
Challenger, Colin	6	2	33%
Foote, Stephen	6	5	83%
Gill, Marcus	6	6	100%
Ingham, Peter	6	5	83%
Mandviwala, Kala	6	5	83%
McGrath, Anton	6	6	100%
Pleasant, Steven	6	4	67%
Stafford, Lorna	6	5	83%
Sugden, Malcolm	6	5	83%
Thomas, Carol	2	2	100%
Total			73%

The Board continued to offer support and challenge to the Trust CEO and the Executive Leadership Team during the year.

Governance Statement

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

The Trust manages potential conflicts of interests by ensuring that:

- There is systematic capturing of Declarations of Interests;
- When required conflicted individuals/organisations are removed from the decision-making process. This will include, but is not limited to, the original decision to enter into a contract with the related party, periodic contract performance reviews and/or contract renegotiation/renewal;
- Competitive procurement procedures are followed in line with the Trust's financial procedures;
- Decision making is based on a value for money assessment.

The **Finance and Resources Committee** is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees.

The Role of the Committee is to:

- Ensure the highest standards of stewardship and propriety in the use of public funds and ensure proper accountability for the use of those funds, both at SPT centrally and at constituent academies.
- Ensure that the Company operates within the regulatory frameworks imposed upon it by the Companies Act 2006 and the Department of Education (DfE).

Attendance at meetings during the year was as follows:

Trustee	Possible	Attendance	% Att
Barker, Jane	4	3	75%
Foote, Stephen	4	4	100%
Gill, Marcus	4	3	75%
Ingham, Peter	4	2	50%
McGrath, Anton	4	4	100%
Stafford, Lorna	4	1	25%
Total			75%

The **Audit and Risk committee** is also a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees.

The Role of the Committee is to:

- Ensure the highest standards of stewardship and propriety in the use of public funds and ensure proper accountability for the use of those funds, both at SPT centrally and at constituent academies.

Governance Statement

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

- Ensure that the Company operates within the regulatory frameworks imposed upon it by the Companies Act 2006 and the Department of Education (DfE).
- Recommend the approval by the Board of the Company's audited Annual Report and Accounts.

Attendance at meetings during the year was as follows:

Audit & Risk	Possible	Attendance	% Att
Mandviwala, Kala	3	3	100%
Challenger, Colin	3	1	33%
Pleasant, Steven	3	3	100%
Sugden, Malcolm	3	3	100%
Total			83%

Review of Value for Money

As Accounting Officer the CEO has responsibility for ensuring that the Academy Trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The Accounting Officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

The Accounting Officer considers how the Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the Board of Trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where available.

The Trust is a member of a buying consortium and uses procurement frameworks where these provide value for money. Contracts and a contracts schedule are reviewed regularly to determine when and where to re-procure goods and services. Staffing is reviewed at least annually to ensure the best use of staff time and skills to improve outcomes for learners.

The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

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

Governance Statement

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

has been in place in Stamford Park Trust for the period from 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to Handle Risk

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

The Risk and Control Framework

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

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

The Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided to appoint Wbg Services LLP as internal auditor.

The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial and other matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy Trust's systems of control, both financial and non-financial.

The areas reviewed during the course of the academic year were:

- Cyber Security
- Health & Safety
- Budgeting & Financial Reporting
- Follow up review of previous internal audits

Governance Statement

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Wbg provides an annual opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the risk management, governance and internal control processes based upon the work undertaken during the year.

Review of Effectiveness

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

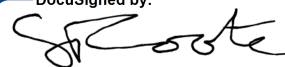
- the work of the internal auditor;
- the work of the external auditor;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process or the school resource management self assessment tool
- the work of the executive managers within the Academy Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- Correspondence from DfE eg financial notice to improve/notice to improve and 'minded to' letters.

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


Conclusion

Based on the advice of the Audit Committee and the Accounting Officer, the Board of Trustees is of the opinion that the Academy Trust has an adequate and effective framework for governance, risk management and control.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 10 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

DocuSigned by:

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S Foote
Chair of Trustees

Signed by:

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J Heard Jones
Accounting Officer

Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

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

I confirm that I, and the board of trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the academy trust, or material non-compliance with the framework of authorities.

I confirm that no instances of material irregularity, impropriety or 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.

Signed by:

Joanne Heard Jones

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J Heard Jones

Accounting Officer

10 December 2025

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

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

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

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

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

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

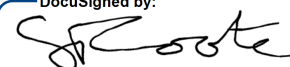
The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 10 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

DocuSigned by:

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S Foote
Chair of Trustees

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Stamford Park Trust

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Stamford Park 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. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, 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), and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by the Department for Education (DfE).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Academy Trust's affairs as at 31 August 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the period 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 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 Auditors responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Academy Trust 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 Trust's 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 doubt on the Academy Trust'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.

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Stamford Park Trust

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

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' Report, but does not include the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

- proper accounting records have not been kept;
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- all the information and explanations required for the audit were not received.

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Stamford Park Trust

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities set out in the trustee's annual report, 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 Board of Trustees determines 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 Board of Trustees is responsible for assessing the Academy Trust'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 Board of Trustees either intends to liquidate the Academy Trust or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

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

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

The audit procedures designed to identify irregularities included:

- enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims
- enquiry of Academy Trust staff with responsibilities for compliance matters to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations
- reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations
- auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business.

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Stamford Park Trust

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, intentional misrepresentations or through collusion.

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

Use of our report

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

DocuSigned by:

Nicola Tucker

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Nicola Tucker FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Murray Smith LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
Darland House
44 Winnington Hill
Northwich
Cheshire
CW8 1AU

Date 16-12-2025

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Stamford Park Trust and the Secretary of State for Education

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter and further to the requirements of the Department of 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 Stamford Park 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 Stamford Park 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 Stamford Park 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 Stamford Park 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 Stamford Park Trust and the reporting accountant

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of Stamford Park 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 Accountants of Academy Trusts issued by DfE, which requires a limited assurance engagement as set out in our engagement letter.

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Stamford Park Trust and the Secretary of State for Education

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- review of arrangements in place over financial management; and
- review of the Trust's expenditure during the year.

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.

DocuSigned by:

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Murray Smith LLP

Date 16-12-2025

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
Darland House
44 Winnington Hill
Northwich
Cheshire CW8 1AU

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2025

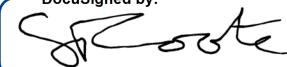
	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	2	-	-	2,267,666	2,267,666	1,749,520
Transfer from existing academy trust	32	297,000	787,000	14,201,600	15,285,600	-
Charitable activities:						
Funding for the Academy Trust's educational activities	3	146,432	32,671,879	-	32,818,311	23,314,014
Other trading activities	4	1,011,940	-	-	1,011,940	868,847
Investments	5	382,649	306,000	-	688,649	741,866
Total income		1,838,021	33,764,879	16,469,266	52,072,166	26,674,247
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds		-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities:						
Academy Trust educational operations	7	1,407,675	32,655,390	2,029,696	36,092,761	26,375,680
Other		-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure		1,407,675	32,655,390	2,029,696	36,092,761	26,375,680
Net income / (expenditure)		430,346	1,109,489	14,439,570	15,979,405	298,567
Transfers between funds	19	-	4,750	(4,750)	-	-
Other recognised gains / (losses):						
Actuarial gains / (losses) on enhanced pension schemes	18	-	7,361	-	7,361	7,320
Actuarial gains / (losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	29	-	(444,000)	-	(444,000)	(4,049,000)
Net movement in funds		430,346	677,600	14,434,820	15,542,766	(3,743,113)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		2,819,506	5,071,955	38,649,707	46,541,168	50,284,281
Total funds carried forward		3,249,852	5,749,555	53,084,527	62,083,934	46,541,168

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2025

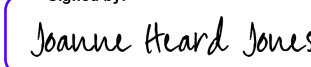
	Notes	31 August 2025 £	31 August 2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	12	55,211,436	39,450,595
Current assets			
Debtors	13	2,174,694	1,368,758
Investments	14	11,480	-
Cash at bank and in hand		8,194,079	8,471,921
		10,380,253	9,840,679
Current Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(3,373,207)	(2,476,420)
Net current assets		7,007,046	7,364,259
Total assets less current liabilities		62,218,482	46,814,854
Creditors – amounts falling due after more than one year	16	(57,168)	(188,945)
Net assets excluding pension asset/ liability		62,161,314	46,625,909
Enhanced pension provision	18	(77,380)	(84,741)
Defined benefit pension scheme asset/(liability)	29	-	-
Total net assets		62,083,934	46,541,168
Funds of the Academy Trust:			
Restricted funds			
Fixed asset fund	19	53,084,527	38,649,707
Restricted income fund	19	5,749,555	5,071,955
Pension reserve	19	-	-
Total restricted funds		58,834,082	43,721,662
Unrestricted income funds	19	3,249,852	2,819,506
Total funds		62,083,934	46,541,168

The financial statements on pages 44 to 78 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 10 December 2025 and are signed on their behalf by:

S Foote
Chair

DocuSigned by:

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J Heard Jones
Accounting Officer

Signed by:

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Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2025

		Year ended 31 August 2025 £	Year ended 31 August 2024 £
	Note		
Cash flow from operating activities			
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	23	(215,678)	(1,353,585)
Cash flows from investing activities	25	(901,401)	(243,067)
Cash flows from financing activities	24	(157,829)	(139,430)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(1,274,908)	(1,736,082)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2024		8,471,921	10,208,003
Cash transferred on conversion	32	997,066	-
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2025	26	8,194,079	8,471,921

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

1. Accounting policies

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

Basis of Preparation

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

Going Concern

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

Income

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

Grants

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

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

General Annual Grant (GAG) 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.

The Academy Trust is benefiting from the DfE's Condition Improvement Funding and the 16- 19 Capacity Programme. The funding for both programmes are not recognised as a capital grant until there is unconditional entitlement from costs being incurred, and the development occurring on a site where the Academy Trust controls the site where the development is occurring. The expenditure is capitalised in assets under construction until the project is complete.

The recurrent grant from HEFCE represents the funding allocations attributable to the current financial year and is credited direct to the Statement of Financial Activities.

Sponsorship Income

Sponsorship income provided to the Academy Trust 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.

Investment Income

All income from short term deposit accounts is credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which it is earned on a receivable basis.

Other Income

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

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

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'.

Transfer of existing academies into the Academy Trust

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

Donated fixed assets (excluding Transfers on conversion/into the Academy Trust)

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

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on Raising Funds

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

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

Charitable Activities

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT, where applicable.

Tangible Fixed Assets

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

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

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

Freehold buildings – between 20 to 50 years

General equipment – 10 years

Computer equipment – 4 years

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use and reclassified to freehold or leasehold land and buildings.

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.

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

Ashton Sixth Form College followed the transitional provision to retain the book value of land and buildings, which were revalued in 1996, but not to adopt a policy of revaluations of these properties in the future. These values have been retained at conversion to academy status, subject to the requirement to test assets for impairment.

Subsequent expenditure on existing fixed assets

Where significant expenditure is incurred on tangible fixed assets after initial purchase it is charged to the statement of financial activities in the period it is incurred unless it increases the future benefits to the Trust, in which case it is capitalised and depreciated on the relevant basis.

Short term employment benefits

Short term employment benefits such as salaries and compensated absences (holiday pay) are recognised as an expense in the year in which the employees render service to the Academy Trust. Any unused benefits are accrued and measured as the additional amount the Academy Trust expects to pay as a result of the unused entitlement.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash includes cash in hand, deposits repayable on demand and overdrafts. Deposits are repayable on demand if they are in practice available within 24 hours without penalty.

Cash equivalents are short term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value. An investment qualifies as a cash equivalent when it has a maturity of 3 months or less from the date of acquisition.

Liabilities

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

Provisions

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

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

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

Leased Assets

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

Financial Instruments

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

Financial assets – trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 13. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

Financial liabilities – trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in notes 15. 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.

Taxation

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

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

Pensions Benefits

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

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the Academy Trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are

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

The LGPS is a funded multi-employer scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the Academy Trust in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments.

They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

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

Enhanced Pensions

The actual cost of any enhanced ongoing pension to a former member of staff is paid by the Trust annually. An estimate of the expected future cost of any enhancement to the ongoing pension of a former member of staff is charged in full to the Trust's income in the year that the member of staff retires. In subsequent years a charge is made to provisions in the balance sheet.

Fund Accounting

charitable objects of the Academy Trust at the discretion of the trustees.

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

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

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

Agency Arrangements

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

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit asset or liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 29, will impact the carrying amount of the pension asset/liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions asset/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 asset/liability.

The actuaries have once again reported a pension surplus as at the year end. This year the Trust commissioned an additional report containing an asset ceiling calculation which concluded that the asset would not result in a reduction in the future pension contributions. Under FRS 102 a pension asset should only be recognised if it is expected to result in a refund or a reduction in future contributions. Whilst the asset ceiling calculation depends on a variety of assumptions and therefore

Notes to the accounts
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

contains inherent uncertainties, the Trust has decided to reduce the pension asset to nil to reflect the result.

Critical areas of judgement

Tangible fixed assets are depreciated over their useful lives taking into account residual values, where appropriate. The actual lives of the assets and residual values are assessed annually and may vary depending on a number of factors. In re-assessing asset lives, factors such as technological innovation and maintenance programmes are taken into account. Residual value assessments consider issues such as future market conditions, the remaining life of the asset and projected disposal values.

2. Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2025 Total	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£
Capital grants	-	2,267,666	2,267,666	1,749,520
Other donations	-	-	-	-
Total	-	2,267,666	2,267,666	1,749,520

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

3. Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
DfE / ESFA grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	16,645,013	16,645,013	8,779,596
Other DfE/ESFA grants				
16-19 core education funding	-	11,329,193	11,329,193	11,527,141
Pupil Premium	-	958,583	958,583	564,701
Teachers pay and pension grant	-	1,339,278	1,339,278	802,795
Core schools budget grant	-	1,040,133	1,040,133	-
Others	-	266,838	266,838	644,824
Other DfE Group grants	-	-	-	4,640
Other Government grants				
Local authority grants	-	731,965	731,965	394,051
Other income from the Academy Trust's educational operations	146,432	360,876	507,308	596,266
	146,432	32,671,879	32,818,311	23,314,014

4. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Hire of facilities	392,640	-	392,640	359,045
Income from other charitable activities	148,019	-	148,019	-
Income from ancillary trading activities	471,281	-	471,281	509,802
Total	1,011,940	-	1,011,940	868,847

5. Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Short term deposits - interest	382,649	-	382,649	543,866
Defined benefit interest income	-	306,000	306,000	198,000
Total	382,649	306,000	688,649	741,866

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

6. Expenditure

	Staff Costs £	Premises £	Other £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
<i>Expenditure on raising funds:</i>					
Direct costs	-	-	-	-	-
Allocated support costs	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Academy Trust's educational operations:</i>					
Direct costs	23,012,113	-	2,201,382	25,213,495	17,254,008
Allocated support costs	4,715,524	2,254,291	3,909,451	10,879,266	9,121,672
Total	27,727,637	2,254,291	6,110,833	36,092,761	26,375,680

Net expenditure for the period includes:

	2025 £	2024 £
Operating lease rentals	230,734	200,745
Depreciation	2,029,696	1,445,201
Fees payable to auditor for:		
-audit	19,334	15,130
-other services	4,532	4,400

7. Charitable activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Direct costs – educational operations	25,213,495	17,254,008
Support costs – educational operations	10,879,266	9,121,672
	36,092,761	26,375,680

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

7. Charitable activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	2025	2024
	Educational	Educational
	Operations	Operations
	£	£
Support staff costs	4,715,524	4,046,633
Depreciation	2,029,696	1,445,201
Technology costs	571,803	458,803
Premises costs	2,254,291	2,254,241
Legal costs – conversion	-	-
Legal costs - other	4,042	10,364
Other support costs	1,269,073	876,845
Governance costs	34,837	29,585
Total support costs	10,879,266	9,121,672

8. Staff

a Staff costs and employee benefits

Staff costs during the period were:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	19,799,721	14,396,037
Social security costs	2,272,137	1,504,744
Pension costs	4,728,377	3,234,268
Other employee benefits	-	-
	26,800,235	19,135,049
Agency staff costs	905,402	524,429
Staff restructuring costs	22,000	8,750
Total staff costs	27,727,637	19,668,228

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Redundancy payments	-	-
Severance payments	22,000	8,750
	22,000	8,750

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

8. Staff (continued)

b. Severance payments

The academy trust paid 1 severance payments in the year, disclosed in the following bands:

£0 - £25,000	1
£25,001 - £50,000	0
£50,001 - £100,000	0
£100,001 - £150,000	0
£150,000 +	0

c. Non statutory/non-contractual staff severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are non-statutory/non-contractual severance payments totalling £22,000 (2024: £8,750). Individually, the payments were: £22,000.

d. Staff numbers

The average number of persons employed by the Academy Trust during the period was:

	2025	2024
	No	No
Teachers	241	180
Administration and support	260	197
Management	32	24
	533	401

e. Higher paid staff

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

	2025	2024
	No	No
£60,001 to £70,000	19	11
£70,001 to £80,000	12	8
£80,001 to £90,000	4	5
£90,001 to £100,000	5	1
£110,001 to £120,000	-	1
£120,001 to £130,000	1	1
£130,001 to £140,000	1	-
£140,001 to £150,000	-	1
£150,001 to £160,000	1	-

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

8. Staff (continued)

f. Key management personnel

Key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the trustees and the senior leadership team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £723,405 (2024: £660,229).

9. Central services

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

- Financial services
- Human resources
- Marketing
- Estates
- Information Technology
- Educational Support Services
- Governance

The academy trust charges for these services on the following basis.

- Flat rate percentage (5%)

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows.

	2025	2024
	£	£
Ashton Sixth Form College	672,644	622,616
Longdendale High School	283,884	266,172
Rayner Stephens High School	245,115	210,555
Fairfield High School for Girls	137,650	-
	1,339,293	1,099,343

10. Related party transactions – Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One trustee has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from employment with the Academy Trust. The Chief Executive Officer only receives remuneration in respect of services provided undertaking the roles of Principal of Ashton Sixth Form College and Chief Executive Officer of Stamford Park Trust, under a contract of employment.

Notes to the accounts
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

10. Related party transactions – Trustees’ remuneration and expenses (continued)

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

A J McGrath (Chief Executive Officer, Principal and trustee)

		<i>Annual equivalent</i>
Remuneration	£155,000 – £160,000	(2024) £145,000 - £150,000
Employer’s pension contributions paid	£45,000 - £50,000	(2024) £35,000 - £40,000

During the year ended 31 August 2025, £266 trustee expenses have been incurred (2024: £0).

11. Trustees and Officers’ Insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice the Academy Trust has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy Trust business. The insurance provides cover up to £5,000,000 on any one claim and forms part of the FE Protect College Professional Indemnity policy. Because the policy combines a number of different insurances the cost for the Trustees’ and Officers’ liability cover is not separately identifiable and is included in the total insurance cost.

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

12. Tangible fixed assets

	Land and Buildings	Assets under construction	Plant and Equipment	Total
Cost or valuation	£	£	£	£
At 1 September 2024	39,101,472	1,885,804	4,403,342	45,390,618
Transferred on conversion	13,755,000	-	483,821	14,238,821
Additions	780,970	2,571,299	199,447	3,551,716
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Transfers	926,579	(926,579)	-	-
At 31 August 2025	54,564,021	3,530,524	5,086,610	63,181,155
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2024	3,764,696	-	2,175,327	5,940,023
Charge for period	1,325,875	-	703,821	2,029,696
Eliminated in respect of disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2025	5,090,571	-	2,879,148	7,969,719
Net book value at 31 August 2024	35,336,776	1,885,804	2,228,015	39,450,595
Net book value at 31 August 2025	49,473,450	3,530,524	2,207,462	55,211,436

The freehold land and buildings are owned by Stamford Park Trust.

13. Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	107,795	68,419
VAT recoverable	960,570	238,576
Other debtors	11,811	-
Prepayments and accrued income	1,094,518	1,061,763
	2,174,694	1,368,758

14. Short term investments

	2025	2024
	£	£
Short term investments	11,480	-
	11,480	-

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

15. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	648,590	341,889
Other taxation and social security	558,982	344,624
Other loans	157,917	139,572
Other creditors	1,289,638	893,165
Accruals and deferred income	718,080	757,170
	3,373,207	2,476,420

	2025	2024
	£	£
Deferred income at 31 August 2024	224,077	595,552
Released from previous years	(224,077)	(595,552)
Resources deferred in year	130,239	224,077
Deferred income at 31 August 2025	130,239	224,077

At the balance sheet date, the Academy Trust was holding the following funds received in advance:

	£	£
Grant receipts	46,519	106,865
T Levels grant	83,720	105,970
Educational funds, visits and expeditions income	-	11,242
	130,239	224,077

The other loans due within one year include amounts of £135,581 due to the DfE and are repayable by quarterly instalments until September 2026.

16. Creditors: amounts falling due after one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other loans	57,168	188,945
	57,168	188,945

Included within the total of other loans due after one year is £33,896 due to the DfE and repayable by quarterly instalments until September 2026.

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

17. Maturity of Debt

Other loans

Other loans are repayable as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
In one year or less	157,917	139,572
Between one and two years	43,410	139,572
Between two and five years	13,758	49,373
In five years or more		-
	215,085	328,517

The Trust has a loan from the DfE which amounted to £169,477 (2024 £305,057) at the year end, bears interest at Public Works Loan Board rate (1.12% per annum, effective from 1 September 2020), and is repayable over the period to 1 September 2026.

18. Provisions for liabilities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Enhanced pensions	77,380	84,741
	77,380	84,741

	2025	2024
	£	£
Balance brought forward at 31 August 2024	84,741	92,061
Benefits paid	-	-
Interest cost	4,068	4,603
Actuarial (gains) / losses	(11,429)	(11,923)
Balance carried forward at 31 August 2025	77,380	84,741

The enhanced pension provision relates to the cost of staff who have already left the Trust's employment. The provision has been recalculated in accordance with guidance issued by the Association of Colleges.

The principal assumptions for this calculation are:

	2025	2024
Interest rate	5.5%	4.8%
Inflation rate	2.7%	2.8%

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

19. Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2024	Income	Expenditure	Gains (Losses) and Transfers	Balance at 31 August 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted General Funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	5,156,696	16,645,013	(15,979,524)	4,750	5,826,935
16-19 programme fund	-	11,329,193	(11,329,193)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	958,583	(958,583)	-	-
Teachers' pay and pension grant	-	1,339,278	(1,339,278)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	1,306,971	(1,306,971)	-	-
LA Grants	-	731,965	(731,965)	-	-
Other income	-	1,147,876	(1,147,876)	-	-
Provision for liabilities	(84,741)	-	-	7,361	(77,380)
Pension Reserve	-	306,000	138,000	(444,000)	-
	5,071,955	33,764,879	(32,655,390)	(431,889)	5,749,555
Restricted Fixed Asset Funds					
Transfer on conversion	34,572,528	14,201,600	(2,029,696)	-	46,744,432
DfE Group capital grants	3,367,031	2,267,666	-	(4,750)	5,629,947
Capital expenditure from GAG	710,148	-	-	-	710,148
	38,649,707	16,469,266	(2,029,696)	(4,750)	53,084,527
Total Restricted Funds	43,721,662	50,234,145	(34,685,086)	(436,639)	58,834,082
Total Unrestricted Funds	2,819,506	1,838,021	(1,407,675)	-	3,249,852
Total Funds	46,541,168	52,072,166	(36,092,761)	(436,639)	62,083,934

The Academy Trust is not subject to GAG carried forward limits.

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

Restricted general funds – includes all income with specified criteria attached to its use and the corresponding expenditure in relation to this income.

Restricted fixed asset funds – includes all restricted income and expenditure related to the purchase of fixed assets, where the income has been restricted for this purpose.

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

19. Funds (continued)

Unrestricted funds – includes all other income and expenditure which has no specific criteria attached to its use.

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

	Balance at 1 September 2023	Income	Expenditure	Gains (Losses) and Transfers	Balance at 31 August 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted General Funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	5,773,239	8,779,596	(9,396,139)	-	5,156,696
16-19 programme fund	-	11,527,141	(11,527,141)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	564,701	(564,701)	-	-
Teachers pay grant	-	802,795	(802,795)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	649,464	(649,464)	-	-
LA Grants	-	394,051	(394,051)	-	-
Other income	-	582,499	(582,499)	-	-
Provision for liabilities	(92,061)	-	-	7,320	(84,741)
Pension Reserve	3,756,000	198,000	95,000	(4,049,000)	-
	9,437,178	23,498,247	(23,821,790)	(4,041,680)	5,071,955
Restricted Fixed Asset Funds					
Transfer on conversion	36,017,730	-	(1,445,202)	-	34,572,528
DfE Group capital grants	1,617,511	1,749,520	-	-	3,367,031
Capital expenditure from GAG	710,148	-	-	-	710,148
	38,345,389	1,749,520	(1,445,202)	-	38,649,707
Total Restricted Funds	47,782,567	25,247,767	(25,266,992)	(4,041,680)	43,721,662
Total Unrestricted Funds	2,501,714	1,426,480	(1,108,688)	-	2,819,506
Total Funds	50,284,281	26,674,247	(26,375,680)	(4,041,680)	46,541,168

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

19. Funds (continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2025 were allocated as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Ashton Sixth Form College	7,055,199	7,239,137
Longdendale High School	(142,659)	232,214
Rayner Stephens High School	(62,082)	(223,275)
Fairfield High School for Girls	1,654,548	-
Central Services	494,401	643,385
Total before fixed assets and pension reserve	8,999,407	7,891,461
Restricted fixed asset fund	53,084,527	38,649,707
Pension reserve	-	-
Total	62,083,934	46,541,168

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and Educational Support Staff Costs £	Other Support Staff Costs £	Educational Supplies £	Other Costs (excluding depreciation) £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Ashton Sixth Form College	8,901,653	2,013,323	863,989	1,933,528	13,712,493	12,621,538
Longdendale High School	4,582,988	799,681	402,687	922,515	6,707,871	6,196,008
Rayner Stephens High School	3,717,600	980,995	342,655	860,150	5,901,400	5,943,630
Fairfield High School for Girls	5,276,257	532,940	449,122	1,172,427	7,430,746	-
Central Services	-	-	-	310,555	310,555	169,302
Academy Trust	22,478,498	4,326,939	2,058,453	5,199,175	34,063,065	24,930,478

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

20. Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2025 are represented by:

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted General Funds	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	55,211,436	55,211,436
Current assets	3,249,852	9,257,310	(2,126,909)	10,380,253
Current liabilities	-	(3,373,207)	-	(3,373,207)
Non-current liabilities	-	(57,168)	-	(57,168)
Provisions for liabilities	-	(77,380)	-	(77,380)
Pension scheme liabilities	-	-	-	-
Total net assets	3,249,852	5,749,555	53,084,527	62,083,934

Comparative information in respect of the previous period as at 31 August 2024 is as follows:

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted General Funds	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	39,450,595	39,450,595
Current assets	2,819,506	7,021,173	-	9,840,679
Current liabilities	-	(1,675,532)	(800,888)	(2,476,420)
Non-current liabilities	-	(188,945)	-	(188,945)
Provisions for liabilities	-	(84,741)	-	(84,741)
Pension scheme liabilities	-	-	-	-
Total net assets	2,819,506	5,071,955	38,649,707	46,541,168

21. Capital and other commitments

	2025	2024
	£	£
Commitments contracted for, but not provided for at 31 August	<u>168,419</u>	<u>3,502,399</u>

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

22. Long-term commitments, including operating leases

Operating leases

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

	2025	2024
	£	£
Amounts due within one year	44,859	54,042
Amounts due between one and five years	37,715	77,968
Amounts due after five years	-	-
	82,574	132,010

23. Reconciliation of net income/ (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Net income / (expenditure) for the period	15,979,405	298,567
Adjusted for:		
Transfers in from academy trust	(15,285,600)	-
Depreciation and disposals	2,029,696	1,445,201
Capital grants from DfE and other capital grants	(2,267,666)	(1,655,920)
Interest paid	-	-
Interest receivable	(382,649)	(543,866)
Defined benefit scheme cost less contributions payable	(138,000)	(95,000)
Defined pension scheme finance cost	(306,000)	(198,000)
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	(429,375)	12,376
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	584,511	(616,943)
Net cash provided by operating activities	(215,678)	(1,353,585)

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

24. Cash flows from financing activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Repayments of borrowing	(157,829)	(139,430)
Cash inflows from new borrowing	-	-
Interest paid	-	-
Net cash provided by / (used in) financing activities	(157,829)	(139,430)

25. Cash flows from investing activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	382,649	543,866
New deposits in short term investments	-	-
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(3,551,716)	(2,442,853)
Capital grants from DfE Group	2,267,666	1,655,920
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities	(901,401)	(243,067)

26. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2025	2024
	£	£
Cash in hand and at bank	8,194,079	8,471,921
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	-	-
Total cash and cash equivalents	8,194,079	8,471,921

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

27. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2024	Cash flows	On transfer	At 31 August 2025
	£	£	£	£
Cash	8,471,921	(1,274,908)	997,066	8,194,079
Cash equivalents	-	-	-	-
	8,471,921	(1,274,908)	997,066	8,194,079
Loans falling due within one year	(139,572)	-	(18,345)	(157,917)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(188,945)	157,829	(26,052)	(57,168)
Total	8,143,404	(1,117,079)	952,669	7,978,994

28. Members liability

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

29. Pension and similar obligations

The Academy Trust's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: The Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by the Greater Manchester Pension Fund. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

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

Contributions amounting to £433,520 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2025 (2024: £293,184) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

29. Pension and similar obligations (continued)

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2020. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 27 October 2023, with 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 TPS in the year amounted to £3,845,052 (2024: £2,376,902).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website. (<https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2023/10/valuation-result.aspx>)

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

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

29. Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2025 was £1,454,000 (2024 £1,131,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £1,086,000 (2024 £853,000) and employees' contributions totalled £348,000 (2024 £278,000). The agreed employer contribution rates for future years are 19.0% in respect of Ashton Sixth Form College, 20.2% in respect of Longdendale High School, 19.3% in respect of Rayner Stephens High School and 19.4% in respect of Fairfield High School for Girls and for employees range from 5.5% to 9.9% depending on salary.

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

Principal Actuarial Assumptions – Ashton Sixth Form College

	At 31 August 2025	At 31 August 2024
Rate of increase in salaries	3.50%	3.45%
Future pensions increases	2.70%	2.65%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	6.05%	5.00%

Principal Actuarial Assumptions – Longdendale High School

	At 31 August 2025	At 31 August 2024
Rate of increase in salaries	3.50%	3.45%
Future pensions increases	2.70%	2.65%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	6.05%	5.00%

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

29. Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Principal Actuarial Assumptions – Rayner Stephens High School

	At 31 August 2025	At 31 August 2024
Rate of increase in salaries	3.50%	3.45%
Future pensions increases	2.70%	2.65%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	6.10%	5.00%

Principal Actuarial Assumptions – Fairfield High School For Girls

	At 31 August 2025	At 31 August 2024
Rate of increase in salaries	3.50%	3.45%
Future pensions increases	2.70%	2.65%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	6.05%	5.00%

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

	At 31 August 2025	At 31 August 2024
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	19.6 years	19.1 years
Females	22.9 years	22.9 years
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	20.5 years	19.9 years
Females	24.7 years	24.6 years

Sensitivity Analysis

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Discount rate: + 0.1%	(101)	(134)
Discount rate: - 0.1%	101	134
Mortality assumption: 1 year increase	188	228
Mortality assumption: 1 year decrease	(188)	(228)
CPI rate: + 0.1%	99	130
CPI rate: - 0.1%	(99)	(130)

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

29. Pension and similar obligations (continued)

The Academy Trust's share of the assets in the scheme were:

	2025	2024
	£000	£000
Equities	19,857	15,133
Bonds	5,193	3,290
Property	2,750	1,755
Cash and other liquid assets	<u>2,750</u>	<u>1,755</u>
Total fair value of assets	<u>30,550</u>	<u>21,933</u>

The actual return on the scheme assets was £2,094k (2024 £2,136k).

Amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities

	2025	2024
	£000	£000
Current service cost	(932)	(758)
Past service cost	(16)	-
Interest income	1,395	1,009
Interest cost	<u>(1,089)</u>	<u>(811)</u>
Total amount recognised in the SOFA	<u>(642)</u>	<u>(560)</u>

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

	2025	2024
	£000	£000
At 1 September 2024	17,085	15,252
Effect of business combinations and disposals	4,268	-
Current service cost	932	758
Interest cost	1,089	811
Employee contributions	348	278
Actuarial (gain) / loss	(4,520)	328
Benefits paid	(406)	(341)
Unfunded benefits paid	(1)	(1)
Past service cost	<u>16</u>	<u>-</u>
At 31 August 2025	<u>18,811</u>	<u>17,085</u>

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

29. Pension and similar obligations (continued)

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

	2025	2024
	£000	£000
At 1 September 2024	21,933	19,008
Effect of business combinations and disposals	5,495	-
Interest income	1,395	1,009
Actuarial gain / (loss)	699	1,127
Employer contributions	1,087	853
Employee contributions	348	278
Benefits paid	<u>(407)</u>	<u>(342)</u>
At 31 August 2025	30,550	21,933
Asset ceiling restriction	<u>(11,739)</u>	<u>(4,848)</u>
At 31 August 2025 (asset restriction)	<u>18,811</u>	<u>17,085</u>

The Trust has applied the results of the actuaries' "asset ceiling" reports which restrict the pension asset to nil.

30. Related Party Transactions

Owing to the nature of the Academy Trust and the composition of the Board of Trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the trustees have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Academies Trust Handbook 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.

31. Agency Arrangements

The Academy Trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for the DfE. In the year to 31 August 2025 the Academy Trust received and distributed the following funds:

	2025	2024
	£	£
16-19 bursary funds received from DfE in year	439,807	494,880
16-19 bursary funds received from TMC	16,460	-
Unspent funds carried over from previous year	<u>555,723</u>	<u>497,661</u>
	1,011,990	992,541
Amount disbursed to students	(155,481)	(412,074)
Administration costs	<u>(21,990)</u>	<u>(24,744)</u>
Balance unspent included in creditors at 31 August	<u>834,519</u>	<u>555,723</u>

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

32. Transfer of an existing academy into the Trust

On 1 September 2024, Fairfield High School for Girls joined the trust and all the operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to Stamford Park Trust from Tameside local authority for £nil consideration.

The transfer has been accounted for as a combination that is in substance a gift. The assets and liabilities transferred were valued at the fair value and recognised in the balance sheet under the appropriate headings with a corresponding net amount recognised as a net gain in the Statement of Financial Activities as Donations – Transfer from Academy Trust.

The following table sets out the fair values of the identifiable assets and liabilities transferred and an analysis of their recognition in the SOFA.

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted General Funds £'000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £'000	Total £'000
Tangible fixed assets				
Freehold land and buildings	-	-	13,755,000	13,755,000
Plant and machinery	-	-	483,821	483,821
Current assets				
Debtors	-	376,561	-	376,561
Investments	-	11,480	-	11,480
Cash at bank and in hand	297,000	694,633	5,433	997,066
	297,000	1,082,674	14,244,254	15,623,928
Current liabilities				
Creditors	-	(251,277)	(42,654)	(293,931)
Loans	-	(18,345)	-	(18,345)
Non-current liabilities				
Loans	-	(26,052)	-	(26,052)
Defined benefit pension obligation	-	-	-	-
Net assets/(liabilities)	297,000	787,000	14,201,600	15,285,600

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

33. Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Total 2024 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	2	-	-	1,749,520	1,749,520
Charitable activities:					
Funding for the Academy Trust's educational activities	3	13,767	23,300,247	-	23,314,014
Other trading activities	4	868,847	-	-	868,847
Investments	5	543,866	198,000	-	741,866
Total income		1,426,480	23,498,247	1,749,520	26,674,247
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		-	-	-	-
Charitable activities:					
Academy Trust educational operations	7	1,108,688	23,821,790	1,445,202	26,375,680
Other		-	-	-	-
Total expenditure		1,108,688	23,821,790	1,445,202	26,375,680
Net income / (expenditure)		317,792	(323,543)	304,318	298,567
Transfers between funds	19	-	-	-	-
Other recognised gains / (losses):					
Actuarial gains / (losses) on enhanced pension schemes	18	-	7,320	-	7,320
Actuarial gains / (losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	29	-	(4,049,000)	-	(4,049,000)
Net movement in funds		317,792	(4,365,223)	304,318	(3,743,113)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		2,501,714	9,437,178	38,345,389	50,284,281
Total funds carried forward		2,819,506	5,071,955	38,649,707	46,541,168