

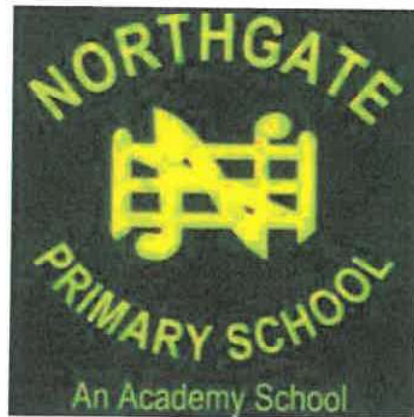
Registration number: 08128432

Northgate Primary School Trust

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 August 2025



Edmund Carr LLP
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors
146 New London Road
Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 0AW

Northgate Primary School Trust

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Northgate Primary School Trust

Reference and administrative details

Members	Mrs S Cran Mr L Foote Mr M Hooker Mr B Neill Mr R Newman
Trustees (Directors)	Mr P Baxter, Chair of Trustees (from 8 October 2025) Mrs J Tanner, Principal (accounting officer) Mr L Foote (resigned as Chair of Trustees from 8 October 2025) Mrs R Fraser Mrs L Grant Mr S McLean Mrs E Shepherd Mrs C Waltham Mrs L Zarifa (appointed 1 September 2024) Mrs S Fenton (appointed 18 June 2025) Mrs E Doris (appointed 18 June 2025) Mrs S Wilson (appointed 18 June 2025)
Company Secretary	Mrs K Morris
Senior Management Team	Mrs J Tanner, Headteacher Mrs C Clynes, Deputy Head Mrs L Layer, Assistant Head Mrs K Morris, Business Manager
Principal and Registered Office	Northgate Primary School Cricketfield Lane Bishop's Stortford Hertfordshire CM23 2RL
Company Registration Number	08128432
Auditors	Edmund Carr LLP Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors 146 New London Road Chelmsford Essex CM2 0AW 14 April 2022

Northgate Primary School Trust

Reference and administrative details (continued)

Bankers

National Westminster Bank Plc
7 North Street
Bishop's Stortford
Essex
CM23 2LE

Northgate Primary School Trust

Trustees' Report

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

The trust operates an academy school for pupils aged 3 to 11 serving a catchment area in Bishop's Stortford East. It has a pupil capacity of **480 (which includes nursery provision)** and had a roll of 456 (**417 plus 39 nursery**) as indicated in the school census in Summer 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 Northgate Primary Schools Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company operates as Northgate Primary School.

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

Members' liability

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

Trustees' indemnities

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

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of trustees

This is set out in the Charitable Company's Articles of Association. The Members of the Charitable Company may appoint up to 6 Trustees. The local Authority may appoint a Trustee. A minimum of 2 Parent Trustees, each of whom must be a parent of a pupil at the school at the time of election by parents of registered pupils at the school in accordance with the arrangements made by the Trustees. The Trustees may appoint co-opted Trustees. The Headteacher is an ex-officio Trustee.

Trustees are appointed for a fixed term of 4 years but, subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Trustee, may be reappointed or re-elected. The time limit does not apply to the Headteacher. Parent Trustees are elected to office or appointed by the Trustees if there are insufficient candidates offering themselves for election. The Articles of Association make provision for not less than 3 Trustees but no maximum and the total number of Trustees including the Headteacher who are employees of the Charitable Company must not exceed one third of the total number of employees.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

New Trustees are invited to take a tour of the school and meet some of the pupils and staff. There is a Governor Information pack which includes a Code of Conduct, and Governor Visit Policy. They have an Induction meeting with the Chair of Trustees and provided with a list of mandatory and suggested training courses provided by external providers.

The Charitable Company is committed to providing adequate opportunities for Trustees to undertake and receive suitable ongoing training so as to enable them to perform their role effectively. To this end the Trust subscribes to an annual training package given by an external provider to a network of local primary schools covering a variety of topics.

All new Trustees are entitled to further induction to the role, according to their need, which may include mentoring and further formal courses.

Northgate Primary School Trust

Trustees' Report

Organisational structure

The governance of the Academy is defined in the Memorandum and Articles of Association together with the Funding Agreement with the Department for education.

The Board of Trustees is led by the Chair of Trustees who is assisted and supported by a Vice Chair. There are three Committees which have their own terms of reference, one for Finance and Resources which includes Audit and has some delegated financial powers which met on 5 occasions during the year; one for Human Resources which met on 3 occasions during the year and one for Learning and Pupil Progress which met on 3 occasions during the year. Each Trustee apart from the Headteacher is the link governor for an area such as safeguarding, special educational needs and disabilities, health and safety, pupil premium, PE and sports premium and data protection, or for a curriculum subject or for a priority in the school improvement plan, and reports to the Board of Trustees on it.

The Board of Trustees, which met on six occasions during the year, is responsible for the strategic direction of the Academy and for ensuring accountability of the Headteacher for the educational performance of the school and its pupils and for effective performance management of staff and for financial probity. The Board approves the School Improvement Plan, reviews progress towards and the impact of the education and other objectives and results, approves major expenditure requests, sets and monitors the budget and forward financial forecasts, approves the organisational staffing structure, agrees the performance objectives of and performance manages the Headteacher with the School Improvement Partner, seeks the views of pupils, parents and staff, and agreed plans for improvement, decides the school's admissions arrangements and approves policies.

The Headteacher is the designated Accounting Officer and has overall responsibility for the day-to-day financial management of the Charitable Company. The Headteacher delegates responsibility for low values of expenditure to specific budget holders who are responsible for managing their own departments within their allocated budgets. A system of financial controls is in place to manage this process.

The Headteacher manages the Academy on a day-to-day basis supported by a Leadership team of senior and middle leaders (LT). The LT meets frequently to discuss emerging matters and to help to develop strategies for future development to be put to the Board of Trustees, as required, for approval. Each member of the LT has specific responsibilities to assist the Headteacher to manage certain aspects of the Academy.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

Key management personnel mean the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, Assistant Headteacher, Staff Trustees and School Business Manager to whom Trustees have delegated significant authority and responsibility for the day-to-day running of the Academy.

Pay and remuneration of key management personnel is decided by a variety of contributory factors such as the school groups size, the pay scale for the role, the level of experience and progress towards performance management objective, benchmarking and the National Standards of Excellence for Headteacher. In addition, pay levels may be affected by nationally agreed pay award and the ability to recruit and retain in post. All of these factors are in accordance with the Academy's appointment and pay policies.

Trade union facility time

We have not had more than 49 FTE during the reporting period.

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

The Academy is a Single Academy Trust as opposed to part of a Multi-Academy Trust and is not part of a federation. Owing to the nature of the Academy's operations and the composition of the Board of Trustees, being drawn from the local community, staff and parents, it is possible that from time-to-time transactions may take place with organisations in which Trustees have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the Academy's financial regulations and normal procedures. Any transaction where the Trustee may have a pecuniary interest is only undertaken in accordance with the 'at cost' principle described in the Academies Financial Handbook.

The Academy does not have a formal sponsor.

The Academy and some other local primary schools have formed a group to carry out peer reviews to support school improvement but this has no impact on the Academy's operating policies.

Northgate Primary School Trust

Trustees' Report

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The principal object and aim of the Charitable Company is the operation of the School to provide free education and care for pupils of different abilities between the ages of 3 and 11, focusing on the ethos of the school 'Every child, Every Chance, Every Day'.

Objectives, strategies and activities

The objectives and strategies for the 2024/25 academic year were:

- To ensure consistent and inclusive high-quality teaching and learning in reading, writing and maths for all learners
- To ensure a consistent level of challenge for all learners across the whole curriculum
- To embed high quality teaching in Foundation subjects across the school with a particular focus on skills and vocabulary
- To ensure consistent high-quality teaching and provision for the development of vocabulary and spoken language across all areas of learning
- To develop high quality teaching based on training on 'mastering number'
- To improve the impact of monitoring across the school
- Leaders continue to develop strategies that address workload and well-being of their staff, while also developing and strengthening the quality of the workforce
- To ensure quality provision for protected characteristics and diversity
- To enhance children's learning behaviours and growth mindset to help them reach their full potential
- To further improve attendance practices and procedures to improve whole school attendance levels

Public benefit

In setting the objectives and planning activities the Trustees have carefully considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

The Trustees believe that by working towards the objects and aims of the school as detailed above, they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission.

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

The Academy continued to pursue its objectives, seeking to ensure that pupils achieve their potential through a broad and balanced curriculum, encouraging a wide range of enrichment activities and seeking to recruit, develop and retain good and outstanding staff.

Key performance indicators

- Whole school data indicates improvement in data for **Reading** across the school, particularly at greater depth. The whole school ARE percentage is higher than the average 3 years before the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Whole school data indicates slight improvement in data for **Writing** at age related expectations from the previous year. The whole school ARE percentage is now the same as the average 3 years before the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Whole school data indicates a consistent high level in data for **Mathematics** at age related expectations - 86% - and an improved level at greater depth. The whole school age related expectation percentage is higher than the average 3 years before the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Trustees receive regular information Board and Committee meetings to enable them to monitor the performance of the school compared to aims, strategies, priorities, success criteria and financial budgets.

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As funding is based on pupil numbers this is a key performance indicator. Pupil numbers for 2024/25 were 456 (Summer 2025) against a forecast of 450.

Another key financial performance indicator is staffing costs as a percentage of total income. For 2024/25 this was 81% set parameters of 80-85%. The Trustees are confident that staffing levels are closely monitored to agree full time equivalent staffing structure which are all approved by the Board.

The Finance and Resources Committee also monitor premises costs to General Annual Grant (GAG) income, capitation spend for curriculum departments to GAG income, total income less grants and cashflow on a regular basis to ensure that the budget is set and managed appropriately.

Pupil attendance is an indicator of the success of the objects and aims of the school. The average attendance across the three terms for 2024/25 was 96.4% performing above the national average of 94.9%.

Going concern

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

Promoting the success of the company

Under section 172(1)(a) to (f) of the Companies Act 2006, directors of a company must act in a way most likely to promote the success of the company, and in doing so must have regard to:

- the likely consequences of any decision in the long term
- the interests of the company's employees
- the need to foster the company's business relationships with suppliers, customers and others
- the impact of the company's operations on the community and the environment
- the desirability of the company maintaining a reputation for high standards of business conduct
- the need to act fairly as between members of the company.

Financial review

The principal source of funding for the Trust is the GAG and other grants that it receives from the Department for Education (DfE). For the year ended 31st August 2025, the Trust received £2,650,755 of GAG and other income (excluding capital funding). A high percentage of this income is spent on wages and salaries and support costs to deliver the Academy's primary objective of the provision of education. During the year the Trust spent £2,620,933 on general running costs (excluding depreciation). The Academy brought forward for 2024/25 £178,426 unrestricted and £40,525 restricted funding. The carry forward for 2025/26 is £241,967 unrestricted and £46,556 restricted funding.

The LGPS valuation shows a pension asset at 31 August 2025, FRS 102 section 28.22 states a plan surplus can be recognised only to extent an entity is able to recover the surplus, either through reduced contributions in the future, or through refunds from the scheme. Based on the guidance, the pension asset has not been recognised and instead the actuarial gain has been restricted to recognise the liability as £nil.

Reserves policy

The Trustees are aware of the requirement to balance current and future needs and always aim to set a balanced budget with annual income balancing annual expenditure or to cover any shortfall from cash reserves. The Trustees monitor estimated year-end carry forward figures via the monthly reports from the Business Manager. The budget plan identifies how any carry forward will be allocated in the plan for the following academic year, including the identification of any funds earmarked for a specific project or purpose. The trustees have determined that the appropriate level of reserves to be held for non-earmarked expenditure should equate to 2% of total funds to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays in the spending and receipt of grants and to provide a cushion for unexpected emergencies.

The current level of free reserves (total funds less the amount held in fixed assets and restricted funds) is £241,967.

The Trust's balance on restricted general funds (excluding pension reserve) plus the balance on unrestricted funds at 31 August

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Trustees' Report

2025 was £288,523.

The cash balance has been very healthy all year, ending the year with a balance of £471,279. A significant proportion of this cash is held against specific projects and is not available to meet normal recurring expenditure. The Trustees monitor cash flow as part of the committee / Business Manager reports and attempt to hold a minimum of £100,000 to cover short term cash flow variances

Investment policy

Investment policy and procedure form part of the Academies Financial Regulations (section 11.2) which was approved by the Governing Body on 18th October 2022. The aim of the procedures is to ensure funds that the Academy does not immediately need to cover anticipated expenditure with are invested in such a way as to maximise the Academy's income but with minimal risk. The aim is to research and monitor where funds may be deposited applying prudence in ensuring there is minimum risk. The Trustees do not consider the investment of surplus funds as a primary activity, rather as good stewardship and as and when circumstances allow.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The Trustees maintain a risk register identifying the major risks to which the Academy is exposed and identifying actions and procedures to mitigate those risks. A formal review of the risk register process is undertaken on an annual basis and the internal control systems and the exposure to said risks are monitored on behalf of the Trustees at each Resources Committee meeting. The principal risks facing the Trust are outlined below; those facing the Academy at an operational level are addressed by its systems and by internal financial and other controls.

The Trustees report that the Trust's financial and internal controls conform to guidelines issued by the DfE, and that improvements to the wider framework of systems dealing with business risk and risk management strategy continue to be made and formally documented. It is recognised that systems can only provide reasonable but not absolute assurance that major risks have been adequately managed. As an academy, the level of financial risk is low. Cash flows can be reliably forecast, monitored, and reported. Staff costs make up the majority of expenditure and are relatively stable with contingencies in place to cover such items as sickness and maternity. The Trustees assess the other principal risks and uncertainties facing the Trust as follows:

- The Academy has considerable reliance on continued Government funding through the DfE and there is no assurance that Government policy or practice will remain the same or that public funding will continue at the same levels or on the same terms.
- Failures in governance and/or management - the risk in this area arises from potential failure to effectively manage the Academy's finances, internal controls, compliance with regulations and legislation, statutory returns, etc. The Trustees continue to review and ensure that appropriate measures are in place to mitigate these risks.
- Reputational - the continuing success of the Academy is dependent on continuing to attract applicants in sufficient numbers by maintaining the highest educational standards. To mitigate this risk Trustees, ensure that student progress and outcomes are closely monitored and reviewed.
- Safeguarding and child protection - the Trustees continue to ensure that the highest standards are maintained in the areas of selection and monitoring of staff, the operation of child protection policies and procedures, health & safety and discipline.
- Staffing - the success of the Academy is reliant on the quality of its staff and the Trustees monitor and review policies and procedures and recruitment to ensure continued development and training of staff as well as ensuring there is clear succession planning.
- Fraud and mismanagement of funds - The Academy has appointed (external Auditors) and Juniper Financial Services (Internal Auditors) to carry out independent and external checks on financial systems and records as required by the Academy Financial Handbook. All finance staff receive training to keep up to date with financial practice requirements and develop their skills in this area.
- Financial instruments – the Academy only deals with bank balances, cash, and trade creditors, with limited trade (and other) debtors. The risk in this area is considered to be low; and
- Defined benefit pension liability – as the Government has agreed to meet the defined benefit pension liability of any school ceasing to exist the main risk to the Academy is an annual cash flow funding of part of the deficit. Trustees take these payments into account when setting the annual budget plan.
- Trust's estate - the risk in this area arises from potential failure to effectively manage the safety, maintenance and

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Trustees' Report

regulatory compliance for the trust's estate. The Trustees continue to review and ensure that appropriate measures are in place to mitigate these risks.

The Academy has continued to strengthen its risk management process throughout the year by improving the process and ensuring staff awareness.

Fundraising

The Trust has a Parent Association that holds a number of fundraising events during the year. The Trust does not work with professional fundraisers or companies who carry out fundraising on its behalf. During the year no complaints or issues have arisen as a result of the fundraising events.

Plans for future periods

Effectiveness of Leadership:

- To ensure all teaching staff consistently adapt provision to meet the needs of all pupils, including those with SEND, EAL and disadvantaged backgrounds
- To further develop open-ended teaching and independent thinking across the school to provide challenge for all.
- To ensure consistently high-quality, adaptive teaching for high needs SEND pupils across all year groups
- To ensure high or improving attainment in reading, writing maths and phonics in all year groups
- To provide inclusive, structured, and purposeful play experiences during playtime and lunchtime
- To enhance children's behaviour by developing and implementing a new whole-school behaviour policy that supports positive conduct, consistency, and well-being
- To ensure consistency by supporting staff with first quality teaching
- Ensure consistent high-quality teaching and learning opportunities both indoors and outdoors, with a clear focus on the Prime Areas

Auditor

Insofar as the trustees are aware:

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

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 18/12/25 and signed on the board's behalf by:



Mr P Baxter

Trustee

Northgate Primary School Trust

Trustees' Report

Governance statement

Scope of responsibility

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

As trustees, we have reviewed and taken account of the guidance in DfE's [Governance Handbook](#) and [competency framework for governance](#).

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

Governance

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

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
L Foote (resigned as Chair 8 October 2025)	5	6
C Waltham	2	6
P Baxter (Chair from 8 October 2025)	5	6
R Fraser	4	6
L Grant	5	6
S McLean	6	6
L Zarifa (appointed 1 September 2024)	6	6
E Doris (appointed 18 June 2025)	1	1
S Fenton (appointed 18 June 2025)	1	1
S Wilson (appointed 18 June 2025)	1	1
E Shepherd (staff trustee)	6	6
J Tanner (principal and accounting officer)	5	6

Review of year:

2024/25 has been a stable year with the makeup of the trustee with the only change being the recruitment of L Zarifa. Three further new trustees were being inducted towards the end of the year with their full terms of office commencing in 2025/26. A self-evaluation and skills review of the trustees commenced in the summer term 2025, this was to ensure that future recruitment to the governing body has an appropriate mix of skill knowledge and experience within the Governing Body. The Governing Body will undertake an analysis of these outcomes in Autumn 2025.

The Governing Body have a mixture or hybrid in person and video conferencing meets and are confident that safeguarding, policy implementation and effective oversight are maintained. Further to the 5 formal meetings a 6th training meet took place in the spring term.

To ensure effective oversight of how funds are spent all 5 meetings include a review of the financial position as well as feedback on the discussions held in the resource committee meetings. The School Business Manager is present at all of these meetings to answer trustees' questions in details as required.

The Finance and Resources Committee is a sub-committee of the main board of trustees. Its purpose is to provide critique and support to the SLT & Board of Trustees in the setting and execution of the school financial plan and associated risk management ensuring sound budgeting practices are deployed to enable execution of the School Development Plan.

Regular finance and resources meetings with a Resources Governor have strengthened financial proceedings. Key challenges continue to be delivering a balanced budget, with continued tightness of funding and increased costs.

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Trustees' Report

The Finance and Resources Committee, via a sub-committee fulfils the role of an Audit Committee. When Audit Committee is in session, the meeting is chaired by the Audit Committee Chair, who is not the Finance and Resources Committee Chair.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
L Foote	4	5
S McLean	5	5
L Zarifa	3	5
R Fraser	0	5
J Tanner (Headteacher and Accounting Officer)	3	5

The **Audit and Risk Committee** is also a sub-committee of the main board of trustees. Its purpose is to:

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
S McLean	3	3
L Foote	3	3
L Zarifa	3	3
P Baxter	1	3
J Tanner	3	3

Conflicts of Interest

The Trust keeps an up-to-date register of interests for all concerned parties, and all trustees are required to complete a declaration of interests form annually and upon joining the Trust. This register is completed and maintained, the scope of which has been expanded to include close family members of trustees in line with the new guidance and is referred to as part of the procurement process when contracts are being considered and for other purposes.

Trustees are required to declare any interests or conflicts during all committee and sub-committee meetings, if conflicts arise then the trustee will not take part in that element of the discussion or voting.

Review of value for money

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

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

- Challenge
- Compare
- Consult
- Compete

These principles are applied in the following ways:

- Allocation of resources to best promote the aims and values of the Academy
- Targeting of resources to best improve standards and the quality of provision.
- Use of resources to best support the various educational needs of all pupils
- Making comparisons with other/similar academies using data provided by the Government, e.g., RAISE, quality of teaching & learning, levels of expenditure
- Challenging proposals, examining them for effectiveness, efficiency, and cost, e.g., setting of annual pupil achievement targets.

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Trustees' Report

- Effectively using relevant funding to ensure the trust's estate is safe, well-maintained, and complies with relevant regulations.
- Requiring suppliers to compete on grounds of cost, quality and suitability of service, product and backup e.g., provision of computer suite, redecoration, seeking quotes for minor supplies and services
- Investigating minor areas where few improvements can be achieved. Best Value will be monitored by way of:
- In-house monitoring by the Headteacher and curriculum managers, e.g., classroom practice, work sampling
- Termly target setting meetings between the Headteacher and curriculum managers Annual Performance Management of all staff
- Annual Budget Planning
- Headteacher monthly financial review
- Regular meetings to review and monitor the budget and report to the Resources Committee
- Analysis of pupil performance data, e.g., SATs results, standardised test results against all academies and similar LA schools
- Benchmark data for all academies and LA schools and analyse the results
- Analysis of DfE pupil performance data, e.g., RAISE
- Ofsted inspection reports

The purpose of the system of internal control

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

The system of internal control has been in place in Northgate Primary School Trust for the period 1st 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 1st September 2024 to 31 August 2025 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of trustees.

The risk and control framework

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

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

The board of trustees has decided to buy-in an internal audit service from Juniper Education(financial) and Herts for Learning Ltd trading as HfL (Single Central Record).

This option has been chosen because it provides the school with this internal scrutiny whilst also providing value for money.

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

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Trustees' Report

- a review of the Single Central Record
- Banking
- Payroll
- Governance and Financial Reporting

The Internal Auditor reports to the Board of Trustees, through the finance and resources Committee, on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities and annually prepares an annual summary report to the Committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the Committee consider actions and assess year on year progress. The Internal Auditor has delivered their schedule of work as planned and there were no material control issues arising as a result of their work.

Review of effectiveness

As accounting officer, the Headteacher 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 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
- the work of the external auditor

The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the **finance and resources** and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Conclusion

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 18/12/25 and signed on its behalf by:



P Baxter

Trustee



J Tanner

Accounting Officer


Northgate Primary School Trust

Statement of regularity, propriety and compliance

As accounting officer of Northgate Primary School 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 2024, 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.


.....
Mrs J. Tanner, Trustee

Date: 18/12/25
.....

Northgate Primary School Trust

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

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 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; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board on 18/12/25 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr P Baxter
Trustee

Northgate Primary School Trust

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Northgate Primary School Trust

Opinion

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information (covers the Reference and administrative details, the Trustees' report and Strategic Report and the Governance statement)

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Northgate Primary School Trust

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Northgate Primary School Trust (continued)

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 we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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 Strategic Report and Trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Strategic Report and Trustees' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities [set out on page 14], the Trustees (who are also the directors of the Academy for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor Responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Northgate Primary School Trust

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Northgate Primary School Trust (continued)

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- The engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations
- We identified the laws and regulations applicable to the company through discussions with management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the academies sector
- We focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations for the company, including the Companies Act 2006, tax legislation and data protection, anti-bribery, employment, environmental and health and safety legislation
- Identified laws and regulations were communicated with the audit team regularly and the team remained alert for instances of non-compliance throughout the audit

We assess the susceptibility of the company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur by:

- Making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud
- Considering the internal controls in place to mitigate the risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations
- Understanding the design of the Academy's remuneration policies

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- Performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships
- Tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions
- Assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- Agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation
- Reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance
- Enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims

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

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

Northgate Primary School Trust

**Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of
Northgate Primary School Trust (continued)**

Use of our report

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

Edmund Carr LLP

Thomas York (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of Edmund Carr LLP, Statutory Auditor

146 New London Road
Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 0AW

Date: *19/12/25*

Northgate Primary School Trust

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Northgate Primary School Trust and the Secretary of State for Education

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 14 April 2022 and further to the requirements of the Department for Education (DfE) as included in the extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether anything has come to our attention that would suggest, in all material respects, the expenditure disbursed and income received by Northgate Primary School 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 Northgate Primary School 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 may state to Northgate Primary School 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 Northgate Primary School 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 Northgate Primary School Trust and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of the board of trustees' funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 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 year from 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 have not been applied for the purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Approach

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- Reviewing the minutes of the meetings of the Governing Body and other evidence made available to us, relevant to our consideration of regularity
- Testing a sample of payments and receipts to documentation
- Evaluating the internal control procedures and reporting lines, and testing as appropriate and making appropriate enquiries of the Accounting Officer.

Northgate Primary School Trust

**Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Northgate
Primary School Trust and the Secretary of State for Education (continued)**

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 year from 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Edmund Carr LLP

Thomas York

For and on behalf of Edmund Carr LLP, Chartered Accountants

146 New London Road
Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 0AW

Date: *19/12/25*

Northgate Primary School Trust

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2024/25 Total £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	2	12,826	1,700	10,829	25,355
Other trading activities	4	146,760	46,958	-	193,718
Investments	5	7,115	-	-	7,115
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Funding for the Academy trust's educational operations	3	-	2,435,396	-	2,435,396
Total		166,701	2,484,054	10,829	2,661,584
Expenditure on:					
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Academy trust educational operations	7	103,160	2,517,773	119,235	2,740,168
Net income/(expenditure)		63,541	(33,719)	(108,406)	(78,584)
Transfers between funds		-	29,750	(29,750)	-
Other recognised gains and losses					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	23	-	10,000	-	10,000
Net movement in funds/(deficit)		63,541	6,031	(138,156)	(68,584)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward at 1 September 2024		178,426	40,525	3,576,919	3,795,870
Total funds carried forward at 31 August 2025		241,967	46,556	3,438,763	3,727,286

Northgate Primary School Trust

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2023/24 Total £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	2	7,009	-	(3,800)	3,209
Other trading activities	4	111,235	59,001	-	170,236
Investments	5	10,058	-	-	10,058
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Funding for the Academy trust's educational operations	3	-	2,272,793	-	2,272,793
Total		128,302	2,331,794	(3,800)	2,456,296
Expenditure on:					
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Academy trust educational operations	7	94,348	2,407,111	532,186	3,033,645
Net income/(expenditure)		33,954	(75,317)	(535,986)	(577,349)
Transfers between funds		-	(38,781)	38,781	-
Other recognised gains and losses					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	23	-	74,000	-	74,000
Net movement in funds/(deficit)		33,954	(40,098)	(497,205)	(503,349)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward at 1 September 2023		144,472	80,623	4,074,124	4,299,219
Total funds carried forward at 31 August 2024		178,426	40,525	3,576,919	3,795,870

Northgate Primary School Trust

(Registration number: 08128432)
Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	3,433,947	3,514,599
Current assets			
Debtors	12	54,388	102,236
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>471,279</u>	<u>465,777</u>
		525,667	568,013
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year		<u>(232,328)</u>	<u>(277,742)</u>
Net current assets		<u>293,339</u>	<u>290,271</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>3,727,286</u>	<u>3,804,870</u>
Net assets excluding pension asset		3,727,286	3,804,870
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	23	<u>-</u>	<u>(9,000)</u>
Total net assets		<u>3,727,286</u>	<u>3,795,870</u>
Funds of the Academy:			
Restricted funds			
Restricted general fund	14	46,556	49,525
Restricted fixed asset fund	14	3,438,763	3,576,919
Pension reserve	14	<u>-</u>	<u>(9,000)</u>
		3,485,319	3,617,444
Unrestricted funds			
Unrestricted general fund	14	<u>241,967</u>	<u>178,426</u>
Total funds		<u>3,727,286</u>	<u>3,795,870</u>

The financial statements on pages 21 to 47 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 18/12/25 and signed on their behalf by:



Mr P Baxter
Trustee

Northgate Primary School Trust

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	18	23,417	(9,744)
Cash flows from investing activities	19	<u>(17,915)</u>	<u>(118,181)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		5,502	(127,925)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September		<u>465,777</u>	<u>593,702</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August	20	<u>471,279</u>	<u>465,777</u>

Northgate Primary School Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

1 Accounting policies

A summary of the principal accounting policies adopted (which have been applied consistently, except where noted), 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 the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the 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.

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the 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 spent on capital projects in line with the terms and conditions of the grant. Capital grants are recognised when there is entitlement and are not deferred over the life of the asset on which they are expended.

Donations

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

Northgate Primary School Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Other income

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

Donated goods, facilities and services

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

Donated fixed assets

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 is used. The gain is recognised as income from donations and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the academy 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.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

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.

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.

Northgate Primary School Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Tangible fixed assets

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

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

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than freehold land and assets under construction, at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, per the table below. Where an asset comprises of two or more components which have substantially different useful lives, each component is depreciated separately over its useful economic life.

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.

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Leasehold land	125 years straight line
Leasehold buildings	50 years straight line
Leasehold Improvements	36 to 50 years straight line
Furniture and equipment	5 years straight line
ICT	3 years straight line

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.

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.

Northgate Primary School Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

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 [12]. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Amounts due to the charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

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 [13]. 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. Amounts due to charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

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 Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Northgate Primary School Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Pension 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.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the academy trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary based on 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 net income/(expenditure) are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

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

Fund accounting

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

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

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

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.

Northgate Primary School Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

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 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 'Member Liability', will impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2024. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

2 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2024/25 Total £	2023/24 Total £
Capital grants	-	-	8,925	8,925	(60,760)
Donations	12,826	1,700	1,904	16,430	63,969
	<u>12,826</u>	<u>1,700</u>	<u>10,829</u>	<u>25,355</u>	<u>3,209</u>

Northgate Primary School Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

3 Funding for the academy trust's charitable activities

	Restricted General Funds £	2024/25 Total £	2023/24 Total £
Educational operations			
DfE revenue grants			
General Annual Grant (GAG)	1,903,930	1,903,930	1,836,885
UIFSM	74,266	74,266	76,432
Pupil Premium	42,393	42,393	51,377
Teachers Pay Grant	30,577	30,577	37,034
Teachers Pension Grant	37,022	37,022	15,426
PE and Sports Grant	19,590	19,590	19,560
Other	87,553	87,553	69,268
	<u>2,195,331</u>	<u>2,195,331</u>	<u>2,105,982</u>
Other government grants			
Other LA Grants	166,502	166,502	100,389
SEN	73,590	73,590	59,547
	<u>240,092</u>	<u>240,092</u>	<u>159,936</u>
Non-government grants and other income			
Other	(27)	(27)	6,875
Total grants	<u>2,435,396</u>	<u>2,435,396</u>	<u>2,272,793</u>

4 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	2024/25 Total £	2023/24 Total £
Hire of facilities	31,176	-	31,176	28,640
Catering income	89,662	-	89,662	79,622
Income from other charitable activities	25,922	46,958	72,880	61,974
	<u>146,760</u>	<u>46,958</u>	<u>193,718</u>	<u>170,236</u>

Northgate Primary School Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	2024/25 Total £	2023/24 Total £
Short term deposits	7,115	7,115	10,058

6 Expenditure

	Staff costs £	Non Pay Expenditure		2024/25 Total £	2023/24 Total £
		Premises £	Other costs £		
Academy trust's educational operations					
Direct costs	1,851,592	-	89,518	1,941,110	1,847,047
Allocated support costs	227,351	244,185	327,522	799,058	1,186,598
	<u>2,078,943</u>	<u>244,185</u>	<u>417,040</u>	<u>2,740,168</u>	<u>3,033,645</u>

Northgate Primary School Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

6 Expenditure (continued)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2024/25	2023/24
	£	£
Operating lease rentals	5,896	7,760
Depreciation	114,607	122,162
Fees payable to auditor - audit	8,140	7,815
- other audit services	1,000	1,000
	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>

7 Charitable activities

	2024/25	2023/24
	£	£
Direct costs - educational operations	1,941,110	1,847,047
Support costs - educational operations	<u>799,058</u>	<u>1,186,598</u>
	<u>2,740,168</u>	<u>3,033,645</u>

	Educational operations	2024/25	2023/24
	£	Total	Total
	£	£	£
Analysis of support costs			
Support staff costs	227,351	227,351	233,188
Depreciation	114,607	114,607	122,162
Technology costs	28,782	28,782	28,185
Premises costs	129,578	129,578	523,791
Other support costs	279,312	279,312	261,898
Governance costs	<u>19,428</u>	<u>19,428</u>	<u>17,374</u>
Total support costs	<u>799,058</u>	<u>799,058</u>	<u>1,186,598</u>

Northgate Primary School Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

8 Staff

Staff costs and employee benefits

	2024/25	2023/24
	£	£
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	1,524,204	1,460,695
Social security costs	153,407	128,207
Operating costs of defined benefit pension schemes	393,743	360,984
	<u>2,071,354</u>	<u>1,949,886</u>
Supply staff costs	7,589	29,368
	<u>2,078,943</u>	<u>1,979,254</u>

Staff numbers

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

	2024/25	2023/24
	No	No
Teachers	24	21
Administration and support	42	40
Management	4	4
	<u>70</u>	<u>65</u>

Higher paid staff

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

	2024/25	2023/24
	No	No
£70,001 - £80,000	1	-
£80,001 - £90,000	-	1

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £376,609 (2024: £364,569).

Northgate Primary School Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

9 Related party transactions - trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from employment with the academy trust. The principal and other staff trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal and staff members under their contracts of employment, and not in respect of their role as trustees.

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

Mrs J Tanner (Headteacher):

Remuneration: £70,000 - £75,000 (2024 - £80,000 - £85,000)

Employer's pension contributions: £20,000 - £25,000 (2024 - £20,000 - £25,000)

Mrs E Shepherd (Staff Trustee):

Remuneration: £50,000 - £55,000 (2024 - £50,000 - £55,000)

Employer's pension contributions: £15,000 - £20,000 (2024 - £10,000 - £15,000)

During the year ended 31 August 2025, travel and subsistence expenses totalling £Nil (2024 - £Nil) were reimbursed or paid directly to trustees (2024 - 0).

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out in note 24.

10 Trustees' and officers' insurance

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

Northgate Primary School Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold land and buildings £	Leasehold improvements £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	2024/25 Total £
Cost					
At 1 September 2024	4,261,000	44,325	327,948	148,591	4,781,864
Additions	-	6,578	12,645	14,732	33,955
At 31 August 2025	<u>4,261,000</u>	<u>50,903</u>	<u>340,593</u>	<u>163,323</u>	<u>4,815,819</u>
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2024	860,962	113	277,144	129,046	1,267,265
Charge for the year	<u>71,252</u>	<u>424</u>	<u>34,254</u>	<u>8,677</u>	<u>114,607</u>
At 31 August 2025	<u>932,214</u>	<u>537</u>	<u>311,398</u>	<u>137,723</u>	<u>1,381,872</u>
Net book value					
At 31 August 2025	<u>3,328,786</u>	<u>50,366</u>	<u>29,195</u>	<u>25,600</u>	<u>3,433,947</u>
At 31 August 2024	<u>3,400,038</u>	<u>44,212</u>	<u>50,804</u>	<u>19,545</u>	<u>3,514,599</u>

12 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	3,804	9,463
Prepayments and accrued income	34,135	88,506
VAT recoverable	<u>16,449</u>	<u>4,267</u>
	<u>54,388</u>	<u>102,236</u>
	<u>54,388</u>	<u>102,236</u>

Northgate Primary School Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	44,534	26,456
Other taxation and social security	37,269	25,738
Other creditors	45,616	40,693
Accruals	53,163	134,504
Deferred income	51,746	50,351
	<u>232,328</u>	<u>277,742</u>
	2025	2024
	£	£
Deferred income		
Deferred income at 1 September 2024	50,351	41,922
Resources deferred in the period	51,746	50,351
Amounts released from previous periods	<u>(50,351)</u>	<u>(41,922)</u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2025	<u>51,746</u>	<u>50,351</u>

At the balance sheet date the academy trust was holding funds of £43,826 (2024: £44,586) UIFSM for the period beginning September 2025, £5,860 (2024: £5,765) rates relief, and £2,060 (2024: £nil) of prepaid school meals.

Northgate Primary School Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

14 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2025 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	49,525	1,903,930	(1,936,649)	29,750	46,556
Pupil Premium	-	42,393	(42,393)	-	-
UIFSM	-	74,266	(74,266)	-	-
Other DfE	-	174,742	(174,742)	-	-
Other Government Grants	-	240,093	(240,093)	-	-
Other Restricted Funds	-	48,630	(48,630)	-	-
Pension Reserve	(9,000)	-	(1,000)	10,000	-
	<u>40,525</u>	<u>2,484,054</u>	<u>(2,517,773)</u>	<u>39,750</u>	<u>46,556</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Restricted Fixed Asset Funds	3,514,598	-	(114,607)	33,955	3,433,946
DFC	4,493	8,925	-	(4,639)	8,779
CIF	4,638	-	(4,628)	-	10
CIF Project Retentions	(7,282)	-	-	-	(7,282)
Other DfE Capital Grants	18,746	-	-	(18,633)	113
Capital Donations	41,726	1,904	-	(40,433)	3,197
	<u>3,576,919</u>	<u>10,829</u>	<u>(119,235)</u>	<u>(29,750)</u>	<u>3,438,763</u>
Total restricted funds	3,617,444	2,494,883	(2,637,008)	10,000	3,485,319
Unrestricted funds					
Unrestricted general funds	<u>178,426</u>	<u>166,701</u>	<u>(103,160)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>241,967</u>
Total funds	<u>3,795,870</u>	<u>2,661,584</u>	<u>(2,740,168)</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>3,727,286</u>

A transfer of £29,750 has been made to restricted general funds from restricted fixed asset funds. This transfer represents £3,662 of fixed asset additions purchased from restricted funds, (£1,550) of capital income used for repairs and maintenance revenue expenditure, and (£31,862) to correct an over transfer of restricted funds in the prior year for capital additions.

The academy trust is not subject to GAG carried forward limits.

Northgate Primary School Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

14 Funds (continued)

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

General Annual Grant (GAG): This represents funding from the DfE to cover the costs of recurrent expenditure.

Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM): This represents funding to offer free school meals to pupils in reception, year 1 and year 2.

Pupil Premium: This represents funding used to help raise achievement and improve outcomes for pupils from low income families who are eligible for free school meals.

Other DfE Grants: This represents funding for specific restricted activities as prescribed by the DfE.

Other Government Grants: This represents funds received from the Local Authority for the provision of specific services associated with the furtherance of the charitable objectives, including SEN.

Pension Reserve: This fund represents the Academy's share of the deficit on the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) transferred to the Academy on conversion from a State Maintained School.

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

Devolved Formula Capital (DFC): The Academy is to use the DFC allocation to maintain and improve its facilities.

Condition Improvement Fund (CIF): This represents a grant received towards a specific building or maintenance project. Any funds left unspent must be returned to the DfE.

CIF Project Retention: This represents the liability against CIF projects for the retention held by the supplier until the projects completion.

Other DfE Capital Grants: The Academy is to use the additional DfE capital grant towards improving energy efficiency.

Northgate Primary School Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

14 Funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	155,623	1,836,885	(1,904,202)	(38,781)	49,525
Pupil Premium	-	51,377	(51,377)	-	-
UIFSM	-	76,432	(76,432)	-	-
Other DfE	-	141,288	(141,288)	-	-
Other Government Grants	-	159,936	(159,936)	-	-
Other Restricted Funds	-	65,876	(65,876)	-	-
Pension Reserve	(75,000)	-	(8,000)	74,000	(9,000)
	<u>80,623</u>	<u>2,331,794</u>	<u>(2,407,111)</u>	<u>35,219</u>	<u>40,525</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Restricted Fixed Asset Funds	3,569,282	-	(122,162)	67,478	3,514,598
DFC	8,994	8,962	-	(13,463)	4,493
CIF	484,384	(69,722)	(410,024)	-	4,638
CIF Project Retentions	(7,282)	-	-	-	(7,282)
Other DfE Capital Grants	18,746	-	-	-	18,746
Capital Donations	-	56,960	-	(15,234)	41,726
	<u>4,074,124</u>	<u>(3,800)</u>	<u>(532,186)</u>	<u>38,781</u>	<u>3,576,919</u>
Total restricted funds	4,154,747	2,327,994	(2,939,297)	74,000	3,617,444
Unrestricted funds					
Unrestricted general funds	<u>144,472</u>	<u>128,302</u>	<u>(94,348)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>178,426</u>
Total funds	<u>4,299,219</u>	<u>2,456,296</u>	<u>(3,033,645)</u>	<u>74,000</u>	<u>3,795,870</u>

Northgate Primary School Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

15 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	-	-	3,433,947	3,433,947
Current assets	241,967	271,602	12,098	525,667
Current liabilities	-	(225,046)	(7,282)	(232,328)
Total net assets	<u>241,967</u>	<u>46,556</u>	<u>3,438,763</u>	<u>3,727,286</u>

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

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Total Funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	3,514,599	3,514,599
Current assets	178,426	319,985	69,602	568,013
Current liabilities	-	(270,460)	(7,282)	(277,742)
Pension scheme liability	-	(9,000)	-	(9,000)
Total net assets	<u>178,426</u>	<u>40,525</u>	<u>3,576,919</u>	<u>3,795,870</u>

16 Capital commitments

	2025 £	2024 £
Contracted for, but not provided in the financial statements	<u>-</u>	<u>4,629</u>

Northgate Primary School Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

17 Long-term commitments, including operating leases

Operating leases

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

	2025	2024
	£	£
Amounts due within one year	5,758	5,885
Amounts due between one and five years	13,877	17,975
Amounts due after five years	1,729	2,075
	<u>21,364</u>	<u>25,935</u>

18 Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Net expenditure	(78,584)	(577,349)
Depreciation	114,607	122,162
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(8,925)	60,760
Interest receivable	(7,115)	(10,058)
Defined benefit pension scheme obligation inherited	1,000	8,000
Decrease in debtors	47,848	481,620
Decrease in creditors	(45,414)	(94,879)
Net cash provided by/(used in) Operating Activities	<u>23,417</u>	<u>(9,744)</u>

19 Cash flows from investing activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	7,115	10,058
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(33,955)	(67,479)
Capital funding received from sponsors and others	8,925	(60,760)
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(17,915)</u>	<u>(118,181)</u>

20 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2025	2024
	£	£
Cash in hand and at bank	471,279	465,777
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>471,279</u>	<u>465,777</u>

Northgate Primary School Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

21 Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2024	Cash flows	At 31 August 2025
	£	£	£
Cash	465,777	5,502	471,279
	-	-	-
Total	<u>465,777</u>	<u>5,502</u>	<u>471,279</u>

22 Member 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.

23 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 Barnett Waddingham. 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 to the period ended 31 March 2022.

Contributions amounting to £45,490 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2025 (2023/24: £40,593) 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 teachers in academies. All teachers have the option to opt-out of the TPS following enrolment.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme to which both 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.

Northgate Primary School Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

23 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

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

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £265,550 (2024: £228,462).

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

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

Local government pension scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2025 was £164,000 (2024 - £159,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £129,000 (2024 - £125,000) and employees' contributions totalled £35,000 (2024 - £34,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are per cent for employers and per cent for employees.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of 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

	2025	2024
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.50	3.20
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.50	2.70
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	6.00	5.00
Inflation assumptions (CPI)	2.50	2.70

Northgate Primary School Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

23 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

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

	2025	2024
Retiring today		
Males retiring today	22.60	21.30
Females retiring today	24.50	25.10
Retiring in 20 years		
Males retiring in 20 years	24.20	22.20
Females retiring in 20 years	<u>26.20</u>	<u>25.90</u>

Sensitivity analysis

	2025	2024
	£	£
Discount rate +0.1%	1,882,000	2,057,000
Discount rate -0.1%	1,949,000	1,971,000
Mortality assumption – 1 year increase	1,958,000	2,095,000
Mortality assumption – 1 year decrease	1,873,000	1,933,000
CPI rate +0.1%	1,948,000	2,056,000
CPI rate -0.1%	<u>1,883,000</u>	<u>1,972,000</u>

The academy trust's share of the assets in the scheme were:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Equities	1,412,000	1,162,900
Other bonds	535,000	541,350
Property	350,000	240,600
Cash and other liquid assets	<u>63,000</u>	<u>60,150</u>
Total market value of assets	<u>2,360,000</u>	<u>2,005,000</u>

The actual return on scheme assets was £Nil (2024 - £Nil).

Northgate Primary School Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

23 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2024/25	2023/24
	£	£
Current service cost	(133,000)	(129,000)
Interest income	106,000	92,000
Interest cost	(103,000)	(96,000)
Total amount recognised in the SOFA	<u>(130,000)</u>	<u>(133,000)</u>

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

	2024/25	2023/24
	£	£
At start of period	2,014,000	1,782,000
Current service cost	133,000	129,000
Interest cost	103,000	96,000
Employee contributions	35,000	34,000
Actuarial (gain)/loss	(420,000)	(6,000)
Benefits paid	<u>50,000</u>	<u>(21,000)</u>
At 31 August	<u>1,915,000</u>	<u>2,014,000</u>

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

	2024/25	2023/24
	£	£
At start of period	2,005,000	1,707,000
Interest income	106,000	92,000
Actuarial gain/(loss)	35,000	68,000
Employer contributions	129,000	125,000
Employee contributions	35,000	34,000
Benefits paid	<u>50,000</u>	<u>(21,000)</u>
At 31 August	<u>2,360,000</u>	<u>2,005,000</u>

The LGPS valuation shows a pension asset as at 31 August 2025, FRS 102 section 18.22 states a plan surplus can be recognised only to the extent an entity is able to recover the surplus, either through reduced contributions in the future, or through refunds from the scheme. Based on the guidance, the pension asset has not been recognised and instead the actuarial gain has been restricted to recognise the liability as £nil.

Northgate Primary School Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

24 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. The following related party transactions took place in the financial period.

The partner of member Mr M Hooker is employed by the Trust as a Teaching Assistant. The remuneration package is in line with the standard payscales for the role undertaken and their employment contract is subject to normal terms and conditions.

No other related party transactions took place in the year, other than certain Trustee's remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 13.