

Registration number: 08178033

Ghyllside School

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Stables Thompson & Briscoe
Lowther House
Lowther Street
Kendal
Cumbria
LA9 4DX

Ghyllside School

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Ghyllside School

Reference and administrative details

Members	P J O'Reilly R Talbot D W Horner P A Hicks E Winter (resigned 14 October 2024) L C Graham (appointed 1 January 2025)
Trustees (Directors)	D W Horner, Chair M Jones L C Graham (resigned 1 January 2025) H B Davies, Headteacher & Accounting Officer A J Tancred A K Biden J A Taylor D Shaw (resigned 18 September 2024) M A Williamson E C Garbutt P Bainbridge F Derbyshire R Sykes (appointed 1 March 2025)
Company Secretary	N Audin
Head Teacher	H B Davies
Senior Management Team	H B Davies, Headteacher M A Williamson, Deputy Headteacher E Garbutt, Deputy Headteacher L Meyfroidt, Assistant Head
Principal and Registered Office	Ghyllside School Gillinggate Kendal Cumbria LA9 4JB
Company Registration Number	08178033

Ghyllside School

Reference and administrative details (continued)

Auditors Stables Thompson & Briscoe
 Lowther House
 Lowther Street
 Kendal
 Cumbria
 LA9 4DX

Bankers Lloyds Bank
 9 Finkle Street
 Kendal
 Cumbria
 LA9 4AG

Ghyllside School

Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year ended 31/08/2025. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report and strategic report under company law.

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 Ghyllside School are also the Directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as Ghyllside School.

Details of the trustees who served throughout the year, except as noted, are included in the Reference and Administrative details.

Members' liability

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

Trustees' indemnities

The academy trust through its Articles has indemnified its Trustees to the fullest extent permissible by law. During the period the Academy also purchased and maintained liability insurance for its Trustees.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

The Trustees are Directors of the charitable company for the purposes of the Companies Act 1985 and Trustees for the purposes of charity legislation.

Arrangements to appoint new Trustees are detailed in the Articles of Association which were amended on 28/03/2022 to separate Members and Trustees. The term Trustees replaces the term Governors and the Board is the Trustee Board, not the Governing Body.

- 5 Members
- 10 Trustees appointed by Members. The Headteacher has been appointed as one of these 10
- 3 Co-opted Trustees - appointed 3 staff representatives as Co-opted Trustees
- A minimum of 2 Parent Trustees elected by parents of registered pupils at the Academy. A Parent Trustee must be a parent of a pupil at the Academy at the time when s/he is elected. Any election of Parent Trustees that is contested shall be held by secret ballot. The Trustee Board shall take all steps as are reasonably practical to ensure that all parents of a registered pupil at the Academy are informed of the vacancy, informed they are entitled to stand as a candidate and vote at the election and given the opportunity to do so.
- There is no longer an LA Trustee

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

All new Trustees joining the Academy Trust complete an induction programme, including receipt of company documentation and a meeting with the Chair of Trustees and Headteacher.

Ghyllside School

Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

Organisational structure

The Trustees are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual plan and budget, monitoring the Academy by the use of budgets and making major decisions about the direction of the Academy, capital expenditure and senior staff appointments.

The Senior Leadership are the Head, 2 Deputy Heads and the Assistant Head. These managers control the Academy at an executive level implementing the policies laid down by the Trustees and reporting back to them. As a group the Senior Managers are responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets and the appointment of staff.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The Senior Leadership team have annual appraisal reviews with mid-year updates. The Headteacher's appraisal is held with a sub group of the Trustees, the rest of the SLT have their appraisal with the Headteacher. Pay is performance related and subject to targets being met. The Headteacher's pay and appraisal review is undertaken by a Trustees sub group in conjunction with an externally appointed qualified advisor.

Connected organisations, including related party relationships

Ghyllside Out of School Club

Ghyllside Out of School Club provides wrap-around care for pupils of Ghyllside School from 8am to 6pm, before and after school and during school holidays. Supervised by the Deputy Head Lower School (DHLS), the OOSC is a separate Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) to that of Ghyllside School and as such produces its own Audited Annual Accounts and Financial Statements and has a separate body of Trustees to that of Ghyllside School. The OOSC pays Ghyllside School a rental fee for the use of the School's buildings and facilities and also a management fee in respect of the DHLS's time. One member of the Trustee Board of Ghyllside School also serves as a Trustee of the OOSC, along with the Headteacher.

The Kendal Collaborative Partnership

The Kendal Collaborative Partnership consists of 14 primary schools, 2 secondary schools and 1 special needs school across the South Lakes area. The partnership exists to work collaboratively to the benefit of all those within its member organisations, to meet this end in a sustainable way and to deliver those objects in a positive and proactive way, taking affirmative actions.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The principal object and activity of the charitable company is the operation of Ghyllside School to provide education for pupils of mixed abilities between the ages of 3 to 11. In doing so it meets the requirements of the Funding Agreement signed by the Secretary of State for Education.

The main objectives of the Academy during the period ended 31st August 2025 are summarised below.

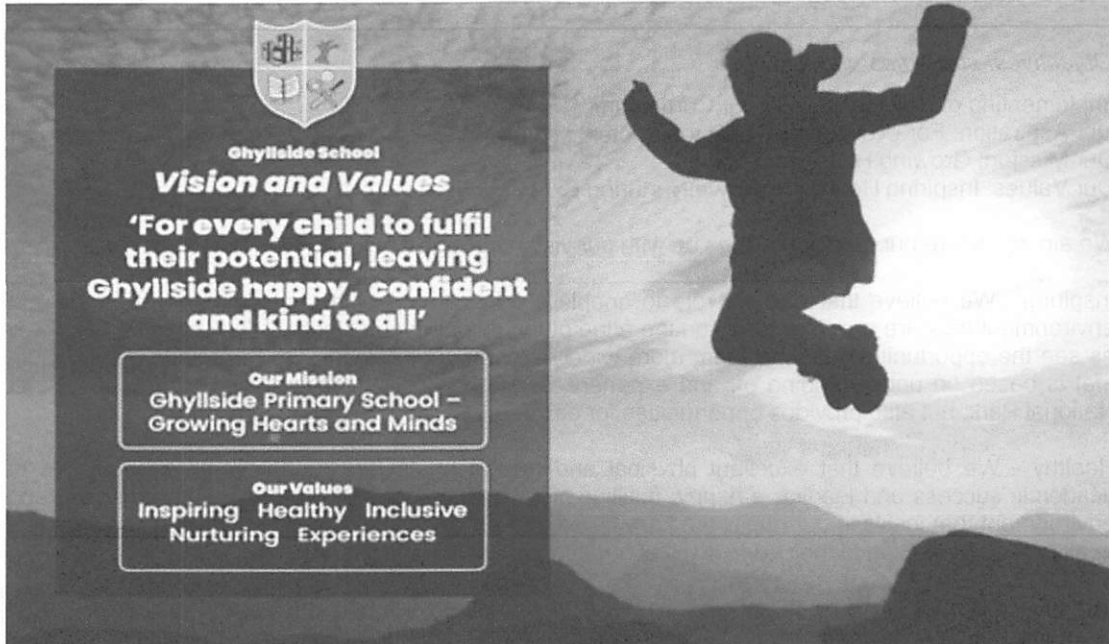
- To ensure equality of opportunity for all children
- To raise the standard of educational achievement for all pupils
- To provide value for money
- To comply with all statutory requirements
- To conduct the Academy's business in accordance with the highest standards of integrity, probity and openness
- To improve the effectiveness of the Academy by keeping the curriculum and organisational structure under constant review

Ghyllside School

Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

We do this through the implementation of our school vision:



Ghyllside School

Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

Objectives, strategies and activities

Implementing our Vision through our Curriculum

Our Aspiration: For every child to fulfil their potential, leaving Ghyllside happy, confident and kind to all

Our Mission: Growing Hearts and Minds

Our Values: Inspiring Healthy Inclusive Nurturing Experiences

We aim to ensure our curriculum lines up with our vision through -

Inspiring - We believe that it is our role to enable children to value the uniqueness of the physical environment they are growing up in - on the edge of the most popular National Park in Britain - as well as see the opportunities open to them more widely in the future. To do this we provide a curriculum that is based on understanding of, and experiences in, our local environment and the Lake District National Park, but also provides opportunities for children to expand their horizons and thinking.

Healthy - We believe that excellent physical and mental health are fundamental prerequisites to academic success and leading a happy, fulfilling life. Therefore, we aim to provide a curriculum and environment that instils in our pupils the knowledge and experience to make healthy choices and lead healthy lives in relation to their own physical and mental health, and relationships.

Inclusive - We aim to provide a curriculum and environment that is inclusive and accessible to all regardless of prior attainment, socio economic background, differing needs, race and orientation. This curriculum and environment nurtures openness and celebrates diversity.

Nurturing - We aim to provide a curriculum and environment that sees children as individuals, providing opportunities and experiences for them to be able to follow their own interests, setting them firmly on the road to developing into well rounded individual young adults.

Experiences - We believe that meaningful, well planned experiential learning has a profound beneficial effect on children's learning. Therefore, we aim to provide a curriculum that is based in experiential learning that all pupils access fully regardless of their individual starting points, backgrounds and prior experiences.

We aim to fulfil these goals in an environment that is:

- Safe
- Led and supported by a committed and experienced board(s) of Trustees and Members
- Staffed by an experienced, highly skilled staff group
- Welcoming to all
- Well resourced in terms of buildings, infrastructure and consumables
- Outward looking and supportive of other schools
- Economically viable
- Held in high regard in our local community

Public benefit

In setting objectives and planning activities the Trustees have given consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The public benefit is providing education in accordance with the Principal Activities detailed above, and additionally in providing access to school facilities to local community groups and adult education.

Ghyllside School

Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

Strategic Report

Achievements and performance

Ofsted judgement

On 15th & 16th July 2025 the school had a section 5 Ofsted inspection, as a follow on from our Section 8 inspection in March 2024. It was reported that the school requires improvement in Quality of Education and Leadership and Management and Good in Behaviour and Attitude, Personal Development and Early Years. The report recognised the good work school had done towards the targets outlined in our last inspection.

Other areas of achievement:

- The best KS2 SATs results we have ever had as a school
- Continue to increase the equity of take up of curricular extras and extra-curricular activities between advantaged and disadvantaged pupils
- An excellent and increasing diverse extracurricular offer for children throughout the school - as an example this year we had 37 children participate in expedition club, which is the highest number ever
- An excellent school ethos and behaviour from the children, again as evidenced in our latest Ofsted report.

Pupil attendance

Nationally school attendance has taken a downward turn since the Covid-19 related lockdowns. Ghyllside's attendance figures follow this trend, however, due to the work we are putting in we are improving our attendance year on year with the aim of matching our pre-Covid attendance figures. For 23/24 we increased reporting of attendance to parents, further holding parents to account for absences including 1:1 consultation with the Headteacher if necessary and closer monitoring of absence figures. We started the 23/24 academic year with letters specifically for all the parents of children who were persistent absentees in 22/23 to encourage good attendance this year. These strategies worked and continued into 24/25 with a new attendance policy, and through our work with the newly appointed attendance link officer from Westmorland and Furness Council. As a result, our attendance continues to improve.

Pupil recruitment

We had 51 new starters in our reception class in September 2024, and 49 in September 2025. These are good numbers when compared with other schools in Kendal, (given there is, on average, 27% spare school places in the primary years through Kendal,) but is lower than we have historically had. We have put measures in place to ensure we are financially viable if these lower figures continue into coming years.

Ghyllside School

Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

We continue to 'pick up' children from the local area throughout our school years and rarely lose any children to neighbouring schools - children only leave us if they are moving away or moving on to secondary school. At the time of writing we still have a very healthy school roll, but this does now appear to be reducing by about 10 pupils year on year.

Our parental feedback to Ofsted shows that our parent group are highly complementary about the school and continue to recommend us to friends and family.

Budget control

We continue to monitor our budget expenditure closely and on a monthly basis. This is done by the School Business Manager and Headteacher and then reported and questioned at the Trustees' Resources committee meetings monthly.

The Trustee Resources Committee monitors financial performance throughout the year in several ways, including reviewing and discussing any variances between actuals and budget in the income and expenditure lines detailed within the monthly management accounts presented to all of its 9 meetings per year. Subsequently, revisions to the budget are made in instances where such variances cannot be addressed in the financial year. The Resources Committee also undertakes both Financial Insights and Financial Efficiency Reviews, together with a Financial Self-Assessment, throughout the year in order to review its financial performance by using benchmarked data through comparing Ghyllside School with other similar schools. The results of these reviews identify any areas where improvements could be made, including any budget lines over or under spending by comparison and an action plan is subsequently agreed in order to address any relevant areas.

Ghyllside School

Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

Going concern

After making appropriate enquires, the Board of Trustees has a reasonable expectation that the Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Board recognises that net current assets at the year-end were £17,430 but this is after deferring income of £48,406.

The Trust has incurred more staffing costs in 24/25 than was originally forecast. This was due to increased need to cover unforeseen absent staff, SEND staffing, part funded teaching staff pay increases, unfunded support staff increases and rising / unpredictable utilities costs.

The Trustees feel that the budget plan put forward by the AO and CFO make adequate staff savings to ensure a small carry forward in both 26/27 and 27/28. These changes will be implemented at varying planned times through the 25/26 year and monitored on a monthly basis. Significant staff changes have already taken effect during the second half of the 24/25 academic year resulting in staff savings of £28k. Further staffing changes will result in a saving of £53k for the 25/26 year. These include a review of staffing structures and the implementation of staff savings through natural turnover and role adjustments, without compromising the quality of education provided to pupils.

For the 25/26 academic year the Trust is applying for a potential two CIF bids for heating and roofing to address essential premises needs and improve the school environment. This long term investment will not only help to support the school infrastructure but will also secure cash flow for the subsequent years.

In addition, the academy will benefit from the LGPS surplus by reducing pension contributions, therefore improving balance sheets and decreasing liabilities.

Pupil numbers are an increasing challenge and the Trust is proactively marketing the school through open evenings, tours, offering increased paid nursery places and the Out of School Club offer of wrap around care. The Ghyllside Out of School Club is an essential part of attracting pupils to the school and supports the school not only in attracting pupils but with financial support.

For this reason, the Board of Trustees continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statement. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Statement of Accounting Policies.

Financial review

The Academy Trust's accounting period is 01 September 2024 to 31 August 2025.

During the period under review, the majority of the Academy Trust's income was obtained from the DfE in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which was restricted to the Academy's educational activities. The grants received during the accounting period and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

During the year, the school received total revenue funding for Charitable activities of £2,754,193, of which £1,922,370 was from the DfE in the form of GAG funding (70%).

Revenue expenditure was £2,816,784, of which staffing is the main area of cost at £2,299,356 (82%).

Ghyllside School

Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

Reserves policy

The Trustees, via the work of their Resources Committee, regularly monitor on-going and projected levels of reserve, ensuring these are adequate for the continued operation of the Academy. This monitoring process takes into account shifts in local and national funding policies and developments as well as material expenditure requirements.

Ghyllside School believes that the funding received in any one year should be used, in the main, to support the children on roll at the time unless there is a specific project that would require the accumulation of funding over more than one year.

However, so as to ensure the stability of the School's organisational operations - to protect it so that it has the ability to adjust quickly to financial circumstances, such as large unbudgeted expenditure, cyclical maintenance and working capital - Trustees consider an operational reserve of 3 - 5% in any one financial year to be prudent.

The level of reserve for each year of the School's 4-year financial forecast is determined by Trustees as part of the annual budget setting process, alongside the need to ensure that a balanced budget is agreed, when any unspent funds brought forward from previous years can be drawn on.

Funds in Deficit

The General annual grant fund was in deficit at the year-end which is mainly due to contributions towards capital projects in previous years. The Academy is looking to reduce this in the future through costs savings or possibly transferring a balance of unrestricted funds that is at the Academy's disposal.

Investment policy

The available funds for the Academy Trust dictate the investment policy. Cash balances are held within a mainstream bank with a strong ethical and environmental profile.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Academy is exposed, in particular those relating to the specific teaching, provision of facilities and other operational areas of the Academy, and its finances. The Trustees have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the school faces, especially in the operational areas (e.g. in relation to teaching, health and safety, bullying and school trips) and in relation to the control of finance. They have introduced systems, including operational procedures (e.g. vetting of new staff and visitors, supervision of school grounds) and internal financial controls (see below) in order to minimise risk. Where significant financial risk still remains, they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover. The Academy has an effective system of internal financial control and this is explained in more detail in the following statement.

Financial and risk management objectives and policies

The Trustees are responsible for the management of the risks the Academy is exposed to, and have undertaken a review of risks associated with its activities. The major risks that have been identified are recorded on the Academy's Risk Register, and procedures are being developed to manage the risk.

Fundraising

Auditor

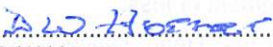
Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

Ghyllside School

Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

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

The trustees' report, incorporating a Strategic Report, was approved by order of the members of the trustee board on 15 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:


D W Horner
Trustee

Ghyllside School

Governance statement

Scope of responsibility

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

The trustee board has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to H B Davies, Head Teacher, 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 Ghyllside School and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the trustee board 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 Trustee Board has formally met 4 times during the year, which included the AGM and also held 3 Training & Development meetings. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Trustee Board was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
M Jones	2	4
E C Garbutt	2	4
D W Horner	3	4
M A Williamson	0	4
H B Davies, Headteacher & Accounting Officer	4	4
A J Tancred	0	4
L C Graham (appointed 1 January 2025)	0	1
A K Biden	4	4
F Derbyshire	0	4
R Sykes (appointed 1 March 2025)	1	3
D Shaw (resigned 18 September 2024)	1	1
J A Taylor	1	4
P Bainbridge	3	4

Ghyllside School

Governance statement (continued)

Governance reviews

There were 5 Members, who were responsible for the appointment of the Trustees; and there were also 4 Trustees elected by Parents. The Trustees have also appointed the 2 Teaching and 1 Non-Teaching Staff Representatives as Co-opted Trustees.

A review of Ghyllside Governance was carried out during the year in one of the Board's Training and Development sessions in accord with the financial framework contained in the Academy Trust Handbook 2024 and so as to ensure compliance thereof. The next such review is scheduled for Spring 2026.

The Resources Committee also undertakes a Financial Management and Governance Self-Assessment; the Schools' Resource Management Self-Assessment; a Financial Efficiencies Review; and the FRC's Risk Management, Internal Control and Related Financial & Business Reporting review on an annual basis and reports its findings to the Trustee Board.

In addition to this, a full Skills Audit is undertaken annually in respect of all Trustees in order to inform a full review of governance and the effectiveness of the Board of Trustees, together with identifying potential areas for training.

Trustees review the Appraisal and Pay Policies annually. These are closely aligned to the local authority model policies endorsed by the Teachers' Associations. No trustees receive remuneration.

The Risk Management Policy, Strategy and Register in respect of Strategic and Financial Risks are reviewed at each meeting of the Resources Committee and updated accordingly, along with any action plan arising therefrom. This forms part of the trust's internal control and corporate governance arrangements, along with ensuring best practice. Key risk indicators are identified on an on-going basis and closely monitored regularly at all levels. The Resources Committee, in turn, reports to the Trustee Board. The Strategic and Financial Risks Register, Strategy and Policy are also independently reviewed regularly.

The steps taken both previously and on an ongoing basis to match expenditure with the funding available proved to be sufficient; and the school has been able to continue to produce balanced budgets for present and future years by using its revenue reserves.

This situation was partly helped by Government grant funding, to both partially meet the additional costs resulting from the national teaching staff's pay award and increases to employers' pension and national insurance contributions, together with additional grants in respect of School Led Tutoring, the Recovery Premium Grant and the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant. The newly formed Westmorland & Furness Council also awarded a grant in respect of the Early Years Budget.

However, Trustees recognize that the ensuing years will again be particularly challenging, not least due to the significant increases resulting from the cost of living crises and energy costs, together with a reduction in pupil numbers due to low birth rate years.

But Trustees remain committed to mitigating financial risks by planning an albeit reduced but nevertheless still prudent surplus/carry-over each year as part of the four-year budget plan, which is closely monitored at each meeting of the Resources Committee - a sub-committee of the main board of trustees - the remit of which includes all finance, audit, internal control and staffing matters, together with a direct strategy for capital investment in line with School's priorities as detailed within its on-going Development Plan.

Ghyllside School

Governance statement (continued)

Attendance at meetings during the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
D W Horner	9	9
M A Williamson	8	9
M Jones	1	9
L C Graham (appointed 1 January 2025)	0	4
E C Garbutt	8	9
A K Biden	8	9
P Bainbridge	8	9
H B Davies, Headteacher & Accounting Officer	9	9

Statement on governance and internal control

All trustees, the School Business Manager and Governance Professional (Clerk) complete the Related Parties/Register of Business & Pecuniary Interests Register by October of every year, with the information being published in the Governance Document on the school website; and a Declaration as to any changes is completed and signed at the start of every meeting during the year, with the main register subsequently being updated.

Should a trustee have a personal interest in an agenda item to be discussed, they would declare that interest at the start of the meeting and not take part in any subsequent discussions on the matter.

Review of value for money

I accept that as Accounting Officer of Ghyllside School I am responsible and accountable for ensuring that the Academy Trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. I am aware of the guide to academy value for money statements published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency and understand that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

I set out below how I have ensured that the Academy Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during the academic year.

The Academy Trust has invested on the maintenance of the Academy buildings in the academic year to ensure that the estate is safe, well-maintained and complies with relevant regulations. Roofing repairs were undertaken, flooring replaced and continued maintenance of work in relation to fire safety to ensure continued compliance with regulations.

• The Trustees of Ghyllside School are committed to achieving Best Value in all decisions made. We use the principles of Best Value as they apply to securing continuous improvement in this school and will:

- regularly review the functions of the school, challenging how and why services are provided and setting targets and performance indicators for improvement. This is best seen through the writing and review of our School Development Plan;
- monitor outcomes and compare performance with similar schools and within the school (through membership and work with the Kendal Collaborative Partnership etc.);
- consult appropriate stakeholders before major decisions are made; and
- promote fair competition through quotations and tenders to ensure that goods and services are secured in the most economic, efficient and effective way.

Ghyllside School

Governance statement (continued)

We will strive to ensure that the school is using its resources effectively to meet the needs of pupils.

The progress of the annual budget plan and the Best Value statement will be monitored with the School Improvement Plan in order to determine the extent of continuous improvement.

The school has in place a strategy and a set of guidelines, updated annually, which will ensure that Best Value will be reviewed and demonstrated. A Purchasing Assessment visit carried out by the Strategic & Commercial Procurement Office in February 2009 stated that we do provide best value for resources, utilities and other school-based equipment. This year we are focussing on:

2025-26 priorities

- Continuing to improve attendance across the school
- Embed new History, Geography, PE, Science, Art and D&T schemes to ensure they are based on Knowledge progression
- To improve assessment of foundation subjects throughout school
- To improve the outcomes of SEND learners
- To improve Trustee monitoring of the school
- To reinvigorate student voice across school
- To continue to be mindful of staff wellbeing / workload
- To ensure all of our safeguarding practices and procedures are in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education '25
- To strive to eliminate any differential between the academic achievement of pupil premium and non-pupil premium children by the time they leave Ghyllside School (three year plan)
- To continue to ensure attainment in KS2 SATs is at or above national averages
- To improve Y4 national multiplication test results

Staffing....

As school numbers begin to fall funding becomes tighter, however the Head Teacher and School Business Manager work hard to ensure we provide the best value possible through the allocation of funding for staffing - Sufficient funding is allocated so that the school is able to continue to employ a minimum of 2 full time class teachers for each year group, meeting our stated aim to maintain two classes for each age group. Senior Teaching Assistants are deployed throughout school to ensure an appropriate level of support for all children. We ensure teachers receive their PPA time through the employment of specialist Computing & PE teachers.

Ghyllside School

Governance statement (continued)

Resources

The school will continue to purchase high quality resources. The school has undertaken a purchasing assessment. Curriculum Co-ordinators and Phase Co-ordinators manage their specific budgets and augment resources through consultation with all staff. Each Phase Group team (4 in school) is provided with funds to meet the demand for consumable resources on an annual basis each May. Resources are audited before the new year's requirements are ordered to ensure efficiency. In addition, the school will maintain its focus on purchasing reading books (£5000) to support the teaching of reading throughout the school and provide a broad range of books with varied interest levels to ensure the inclusion of all readers. The library's fully integrated computerised system for recording withdrawals & returns is maintained. Resources will be purchased to help the school further develop its effective and manageable system of assessment and recording. Computing facilities and resource development will remain a high priority; we will endeavour to meet the challenges outlined in our current Improvement Plan.

The School Environment ...

A structured programme of grounds and buildings maintenance and development is operational in line with the Asset Management Plan and is worked through under the supervision of the Trustees' Premises, Health & Safety Committee. We continue to keep abreast of CIF bid developments and potential areas for school buildings improvements.

Partnerships....

We are an active member of the Kendal Collaborative Partnership, (KCP, a local consortium of twelve primary, one special and two secondary schools in and around Kendal) who work together to provide mutual support, raise standards and liaise with the local authority.

Financial Management ...

The Statement of Internal Control is in place. The school Trustees' Resources Committee hold regular finance meetings (monthly) to monitor the budget and discuss problem areas and strategies on how to deal with any particular situation that may arise. The whole Trustee Board are kept informed through Resources Committee reports tabled at each Trustees' meeting. A budgetary balance will be maintained through careful financial management, anticipation of future trends and sensible, realistic expenditure.

Conclusion

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

Signed:

Name:



How Davies

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Ghyllside School

Governance statement (continued)

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing 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 Ghyllside School for the year ended 31 August 2025 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to handle risk

The trustee board 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 trustee board is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the year ended 31 August 2025 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the trustee board.

Based on this review, a range of areas were identified for focus for the Programme of Internal Control and Scrutiny work for 2024-2025. These were:

- SRMSAC and SRMA
- Risk register.
- Reserves Policy
- Building condition issues in relation to risk
- Integrated Curriculum Financial Planning data
- Compliance with ATH "musts".
- Reserves Policy, and DfE Reserves Good Practice Guide

The audit approach used involved: testing of controls, reporting of findings, recommendations and action required.

Audit work and investigation was undertaken using a range of methods including questioning and interrogation, scrutiny and review of documents (including policies, manuals and procedures) in depth review and spot checks of financial records.

The recommendations have been actioned by the Trust and therefore controls and systems are in an even more robust position, appropriate for the size and complexity of the Trust.

There were no material control or other issues reported by the Responsible Officer to date.

Review of effectiveness

As accounting officer, the head teacher 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;
- correspondence from DfE: FNtl/Ntl and 'minded to' letters.

Ghyllside School

Governance statement (continued)

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

Approved by order of the members of the trustee board on 15 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



D W Horner
Trustee



H B Davies
Head Teacher

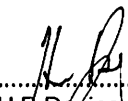
Ghyllside School

Statement of regularity, propriety and compliance

As accounting officer of Ghyllside School, 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 trustee board 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 trustee board 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 trustee board and DfE.


.....
H B Davies, Head Teacher
Accounting Officer

15 December 2025

Ghyllside School

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 Education and Skills Funding Agency, 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:

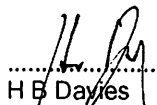
- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards 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 ESFA/DfE have been applied for the purposes intended.

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board on 15 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:


.....
H B Daynes
Head Teacher

Ghyllside School

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Ghyllside School

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Ghyllside School (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'.

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;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2019 and Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 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.

Emphasis of matter

We draw attention to the Going Concern note within Accounting Policies. As explained in the note, the net assets of the academy were £17,430 at the balance sheet date. These conditions indicate there is a material uncertainty that may cast doubt over the academy's ability to continue as a going concern. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

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.

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.

Ghyllside School

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

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 20], the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Academy's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the 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:

Ghyllside School

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

We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements from our experience and from discussions with management. We reviewed any related correspondence and records of meetings to assess compliance with laws and regulations and discussed the current position with management.

We ensured the audit team were alert for any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit work.

We reviewed material journals processed in the academy's accounting software.

We assessed the academy's policies and procedures on fraud risks. No instances of actual, suspected or alleged fraud were identified by us or the academy in the year.

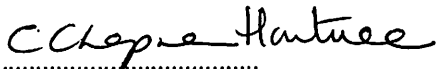
Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed 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.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Academy's Trustees, 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 trustees 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 Trustees, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



.....
Chloe Chapman-Hastwell FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Stables Thompson & Briscoe, Statutory Auditor

Lowther House
Lowther Street
Kendal
Cumbria
LA9 4DX

Date: 16/12/2025

Ghyllside School

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Ghyllside School and the Education and Skills Funding Agency

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 28 March 2023 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 Ghyllside School 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 Ghyllside School 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 Ghyllside School 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 Ghyllside School and the Secretary of State for Education, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the trustee board' accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of the trustee board's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 29 April 2022 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2024, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Approach

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- We obtained information on the Academy's control environment and activities and considered whether these had complied with the Academies Accounts Direction 2024/25 and whether the activities confirmed to the Academy Trust's framework of authorities.
- When testing expenditure, the authorisation was checked and the nature of the activity was confirmed as permissible within the Academy Trusts' framework of authorities. A review was made of related parties and the register of business interests. This was used to identify any related party transactions.

Ghyllside School

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Ghyllside School and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (continued)

- Formal representations were obtained from the Trustee Board and the accounting officer acknowledging their responsibilities including disclosing all non-compliance with laws and regulations specific to the authorising framework, access to accounting records, provision of information and explanations, and other matters where direct evidence was not available.

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 for the purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

C Chapman-Hastwell

Chloe Chapman-Hastwell FCA

For and on behalf of Stables Thompson & Briscoe, Chartered Accountants

Lowther House
Lowther Street
Kendal
Cumbria
LA9 4DX

Date: 16/12/2025

Ghyllside School

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 £	2025 Total £	
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	2	4,724	225	9,001	13,950
Other trading activities	4	44,926	-	-	44,926
Investments	5	20	-	-	20
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Funding for the Academy trust's educational operations	3	<u>50,778</u>	<u>2,703,415</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,754,193</u>
Total		<u>100,448</u>	<u>2,703,640</u>	<u>9,001</u>	<u>2,813,089</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	6	4,921	-	-	4,921
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Academy trust educational operations	7	<u>54,814</u>	<u>2,757,049</u>	<u>117,019</u>	<u>2,928,882</u>
Total		<u>59,735</u>	<u>2,757,049</u>	<u>117,019</u>	<u>2,933,803</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		40,713	(53,409)	(108,018)	(120,714)
Transfers between funds		<u>(49,897)</u>	<u>54,013</u>	<u>(4,116)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in (deficit)/funds		(9,184)	604	(112,134)	(120,714)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds/(deficit) brought forward at 1 September 2024		<u>93,747</u>	<u>(70,372)</u>	<u>2,705,137</u>	<u>2,728,512</u>
Total funds/(deficit) carried forward at 31 August 2025		<u>84,563</u>	<u>(69,768)</u>	<u>2,593,003</u>	<u>2,607,798</u>

Ghyllside School

**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 £	2024 Total £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	2	5,697	225	9,191	15,113
Other trading activities	4	35,874	-	-	35,874
Investments	5	28	-	-	28
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Funding for the Academy trust's educational operations	3	<u>58,284</u>	<u>2,517,187</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,575,471</u>
Total		<u>99,883</u>	<u>2,517,412</u>	<u>9,191</u>	<u>2,626,486</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	6	2,503	-	-	2,503
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Academy trust educational operations	7	<u>76,226</u>	<u>2,629,543</u>	<u>116,456</u>	<u>2,822,225</u>
Total		<u>78,729</u>	<u>2,629,543</u>	<u>116,456</u>	<u>2,824,728</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		21,154	(112,131)	(107,265)	(198,242)
Transfers between funds		<u>(106,518)</u>	<u>119,659</u>	<u>(13,141)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in (deficit)/funds		(85,364)	7,528	(120,406)	(198,242)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds/(deficit) brought forward at 1 September 2023		<u>179,114</u>	<u>(77,900)</u>	<u>2,825,543</u>	<u>2,926,757</u>
Total funds/(deficit) carried forward at 31 August 2024		<u>93,750</u>	<u>(70,372)</u>	<u>2,705,137</u>	<u>2,728,515</u>

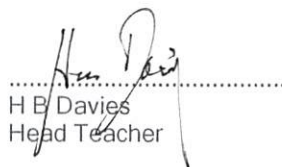
Ghyllside School

(Registration number: 08178033)
Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	2,590,368	2,705,137
Current assets			
Stocks	12	9,542	9,699
Debtors	13	91,167	92,696
Cash at bank and in hand		57,965	61,280
		<u>158,674</u>	<u>163,675</u>
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year		<u>(141,244)</u>	<u>(140,299)</u>
Net current assets		<u>17,430</u>	<u>23,376</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>2,607,798</u>	<u>2,728,513</u>
Net assets excluding pension asset		<u>2,607,798</u>	<u>2,728,513</u>
Total net assets		<u>2,607,798</u>	<u>2,728,513</u>
Funds of the Academy:			
Restricted funds			
Restricted general fund	15	(69,768)	(70,372)
Restricted fixed asset fund	15	<u>2,593,003</u>	<u>2,705,137</u>
		2,523,235	2,634,765
Unrestricted funds			
Unrestricted general fund	15	<u>84,563</u>	<u>93,748</u>
Total funds		<u>2,607,798</u>	<u>2,728,513</u>

The financial statements on pages 26 to 55 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 15 December 2025 and signed on their behalf by:


D W Horner
Trustee


H B Davies
Head Teacher

Ghyllside School

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash used in operating activities	18	(7,303)	(207,626)
Cash flows from investing activities	20	6,771	2,109
Cash flows from financing activities	19	<u>(2,783)</u>	<u>(3,008)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(3,315)	(208,525)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September		<u>61,280</u>	<u>269,803</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August	21	<u><u>57,965</u></u>	<u><u>61,278</u></u>

Ghyllside School

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 ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

The impact from the Covid-19 pandemic can be found in detail within the Strategic Report.

Ghyllside School

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

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Going concern

After making appropriate enquires, the Board of Trustees has a reasonable expectation that the Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Board recognises that net current assets at the year-end were £17,430 but this is after deferring income of £48,406.

The Trust has incurred more staffing costs in 24/25 than was originally forecast. This was due to increased need to cover unforeseen absent staff, SEND staffing, part funded teaching staff pay increases, unfunded support staff increases and rising / unpredictable utilities costs.

The Trustees feel that the budget plan put forward by the AO and CFO make adequate staff savings to ensure a small carry forward in both 26/27 and 27/28. These changes will be implemented at varying planned times through the 25/26 year and monitored on a monthly basis. Significant staff changes have already taken effect during the second half of the 24/25 academic year resulting in staff savings of £28k. Further staffing changes will result in a saving of £53k for the 25/26 year. These include a review of staffing structures and the implementation of staff savings through natural turnover and role adjustments, without compromising the quality of education provided to pupils.

For the 25/26 academic year the Trust is applying for a potential two CIF bids for heating and roofing to address essential premises needs and improve the school environment. This long term investment will not only help to support the school infrastructure but will also secure cash flow for the subsequent years.

In addition, the academy will benefit from the LGPS surplus by reducing pension contributions, therefore improving balance sheets and decreasing liabilities.

Pupil numbers are an increasing challenge and the Trust is proactively marketing the school through open evenings, tours, offering increased paid nursery places and the Out of School Club offer of wrap around care. The Ghyllside Out of School Club is an essential part of attracting pupils to the school and supports the school not only in attracting pupils but with financial support.

For this reason, the Board of Trustees continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statement. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Statement of Accounting Policies.

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.

Ghyllside School

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

1 Accounting policies (continued)

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.

Sponsorship income

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

Donations

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

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'.

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

Ghyllside School

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

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Transfer on conversion

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

Transfer of existing academies into the trust

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

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.

Ghyllside School

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 (multiple assets not included if individual assets are under £250) 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/reducing balance 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 buildings	straight line over economic life (ranging from 29 to 58 years), as per DVS report dated 13/06/2023
Leasehold land	straight line over the 125 year lease term, as per DVS report dated 13/06/2023
Plant and machinery	straight line over economic life (ranging from 10 to 30 years)
ICT equipment	25% straight line
Furniture, fittings & equipment	10% 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.

Ghyllside School

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

1 Accounting policies (continued)

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.

Leased assets

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

Stock

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

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.

Ghyllside School

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 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.

The Local Government Pension Scheme deficit is recognised against restricted general funds in order to match it against the GAG, in accordance with the Education and Skills Funding Agency guidance.

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.

Ghyllside School

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 trustees have considered accounting for an LGPS pension surplus and the asset ceiling. The trustees do not consider there is a surplus to recognise, as they do not believe there is an economic benefit. The academy is not able to claim a refund from the LGPS. The trustees have reviewed the report provided by Mercer, which provides additional information relating to accounting surplus as of 31st August 2025. The present value of future accounting service cost is lower than the present value of primary contributions, therefore a surplus should not be recognised.

2 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Capital grants	-	-	9,001	9,001	9,191
Other donations	4,724	225	-	4,949	5,922
	4,724	225	9,001	13,950	15,113

The income from donations and capital grants was £13,950 (2024: £15,112) which was allocated between the funds as follows; £4,724 unrestricted funds (2024: £5,697), £225 restricted funds (2024: £225), £9,001 restricted fixed asset funds (2024: £9,191) and £Nil endowment funds (2024: £Nil).

Ghyllside School

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

3 Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Educational operations				
DfE/ESFA revenue grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	1,922,370	1,922,370	1,828,075
ESFA Pupil Premium	-	104,158	104,158	117,272
UIFSM	-	74,511	74,511	75,470
Teachers Pay Grant	-	31,446	31,446	33,218
Teachers Pension Grant	-	38,105	38,105	15,877
Core Schools Budget Grant	-	66,015	66,015	-
Sports Funding	-	19,570	19,570	19,540
Other ESFA Grants	-	7,532	7,532	6,668
Early Years Budget Grant	-	1,205	1,205	-
Maintained Schools Additional Grant	-	-	-	61,740
Employers NIC Grant	-	15,877	15,877	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>2,280,789</u>	<u>2,280,789</u>	<u>2,157,860</u>
Other government grants				
LA Funded Statements	-	135,826	135,826	173,323
CCC Early Years Funding	-	182,292	182,292	120,216
LA Pupil Premium	-	1,500	1,500	2,292
	<u>-</u>	<u>319,618</u>	<u>319,618</u>	<u>295,831</u>
Non-government grants and other income				
Catering	40,050	-	40,050	47,484
School Trips	-	67,432	67,432	31,626
Other Educational Income	10,728	11,276	22,004	23,670
Playground Fund	-	18,300	18,300	9,476
School Council	-	6,000	6,000	-
	<u>50,778</u>	<u>103,008</u>	<u>153,786</u>	<u>112,256</u>

Ghyllside School

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

3 Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations (continued)

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Covid-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)				
National Tutoring Programme	-	-	-	(1,750)
Recovery Premium Grant	-	-	-	11,274
	-	-	-	9,524
Total grants	50,778	2,703,415	2,754,193	2,575,471

The funding for educational operations was £2,754,193 (2024: £2,575,471) which was allocated between the funds as follows; £50,778 unrestricted funds (2024: £58,284), £2,703,415 restricted funds (2024: £2,517,187), £Nil restricted fixed asset funds (2024: £Nil) and £Nil endowment funds (2024: £Nil).

4 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Hire of facilities	9,784	9,784	9,682
Other sales	35,142	35,142	26,192
	44,926	44,926	35,874

The income from other trading activities was £44,925 (2024: £35,874) which was allocated between the funds as follows; £44,925 unrestricted funds (2024: £35,874), £Nil restricted funds (2024: £Nil), £Nil restricted fixed asset funds (2024: £Nil) and £Nil endowment funds (2024: £Nil).

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Short term deposits	20	20	28

The income from other trading activities was £20 (2024: £28) which was allocated between the funds as follows; £20 unrestricted funds (2024: £28), £Nil restricted funds (2024: £Nil), £Nil restricted fixed asset funds (2024: £Nil) and £Nil endowment funds (2024: £Nil).

Ghyllside School

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

6 Expenditure

	Non Pay Expenditure			2025 Total £	2024 Total £
	Staff costs £	Premises £	Other costs £		
Expenditure on raising funds					
Allocated support costs	-	2,425	-	4,921	2,503
Academy trust's educational operations					
Direct costs	2,058,663	103,076	68,118	2,229,857	2,157,124
Allocated support costs	<u>240,693</u>	<u>158,158</u>	<u>300,174</u>	<u>699,025</u>	<u>665,101</u>
	<u><u>2,299,356</u></u>	<u><u>263,659</u></u>	<u><u>368,292</u></u>	<u><u>2,933,803</u></u>	<u><u>2,824,728</u></u>

Ghyllside School

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

6 Expenditure (continued)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2025 £	2024 £
Operating lease rentals	3,401	2,812
Depreciation	117,019	116,456
Fees payable to auditor - audit	4,500	4,250
- other audit services	4,765	3,750
	4,765	3,750

7 Charitable activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Direct costs - educational operations	2,229,857	2,157,124
Support costs - educational operations	699,025	665,101
	2,928,882	2,822,225

	Educational operations £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Analysis of support costs			
Support staff costs	240,693	240,693	259,673
Depreciation	13,943	13,943	13,380
Technology costs	26,540	26,540	24,710
Premises costs	144,215	144,215	128,851
Other support costs	242,824	242,824	208,548
Governance costs	30,810	30,810	29,939
Total support costs	699,025	699,025	665,101

8 Staff

Staff costs and employee benefits

	2025 £	2024 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	1,660,924	1,664,129
Social security costs	164,344	149,754
Operating costs of defined benefit pension schemes	418,618	381,960
	2,243,886	2,195,843
Supply staff costs	55,470	49,868
	2,299,356	2,245,711

Ghyllside School

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

8 Staff (continued)

Staff numbers

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

	2025 No	2024 No
Management	4	4
Teachers	20	20
Administration and support	47	47
	71	71

Higher paid staff

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

	2025 No	2024 No
£60,001 - £70,000	2	3
£70,001 - £80,000	1	-
£80,001 - £90,000	-	1
£90,001 - £100,000	1	-
	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 £420,094 (2024: £387,646).

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:

Ghyllside School

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

9 Related party transactions - trustees' remuneration and expenses (continued)

H B Davies (Principal and Trustee):

Remuneration: £90,000 - £95,000 (2024 - £85,000 - £90,000)

Employer's pension contributions: £25,000 - £30,000 (2024 - £20,000 - £25,000)

M A Williamson (Staff Trustee):

Remuneration: £70,000 - £75,000 (2024 - £65,000 - £70,000)

Employer's pension contributions: £20,000 - £25,000 (2024 - £15,000 - £20,000)

E C Garbutt (Staff Trustee):

Remuneration: £65,000 - £70,000 (2024 - £60,000 - £65,000)

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

P Bainbridge (Staff Trustee):

Remuneration: £30,000 - £35,000 (2024 - £30,000 - £35,000)

Employer's pension contributions: £5,000 - £10,000 (2024 - £5,000 - £10,000)

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 25.

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.

In previous years with normal commercial practice, the Academy purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy business. The insurance provided cover up to £5,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2024 was £110.

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

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold land and buildings £	Furniture and equipment £	Plant and Machinery £	Computer equipment £	2025 Total £
Cost					
At 1 September 2024	3,247,335	42,912	699,152	135,709	4,125,108
Additions	-	-	-	2,250	2,250
At 31 August 2025	<u>3,247,335</u>	<u>42,912</u>	<u>699,152</u>	<u>137,959</u>	<u>4,127,358</u>

Ghyllside School

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

11 Tangible fixed assets (continued)

	Leasehold land and buildings £	Furniture and equipment £	Plant and Machinery £	Computer equipment £	2025 Total £
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2024	794,493	34,150	467,930	123,398	1,419,971
Charge for the year	<u>70,424</u>	<u>1,613</u>	<u>37,968</u>	<u>7,014</u>	<u>117,019</u>
At 31 August 2025	<u>864,917</u>	<u>35,763</u>	<u>505,898</u>	<u>130,412</u>	<u>1,536,990</u>
Net book value					
At 31 August 2025	<u>2,382,418</u>	<u>7,149</u>	<u>193,254</u>	<u>7,547</u>	<u>2,590,368</u>
At 31 August 2024	<u>2,452,842</u>	<u>8,762</u>	<u>231,222</u>	<u>12,311</u>	<u>2,705,137</u>

12 Stock

	2025 £	2024 £
Stock of goods	<u>9,542</u>	<u>9,699</u>

13 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	11,946	9,608
Prepayments	23,453	34,098
Accrued grant and other income	39,722	30,494
VAT recoverable	13,129	16,057
Other debtors	<u>2,917</u>	<u>2,439</u>
	<u>91,167</u>	<u>92,696</u>
	<u>91,167</u>	<u>92,696</u>

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	38,184	50,935
Other taxation and social security	39,133	-
Loans	-	2,716
Accruals	15,521	32,994
Deferred income	<u>48,406</u>	<u>53,654</u>
	<u>141,244</u>	<u>140,299</u>

Ghyllside School

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

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (continued)

	2025 £	2024 £
Deferred income		
Deferred income at 1 September 2024	53,654	69,871
Resources deferred in the period	48,406	53,654
Amounts released from previous periods	<u>(53,654)</u>	<u>(69,871)</u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2025	<u>48,406</u>	<u>53,654</u>

Deferred income comprises funding for the next academic year, as follows: -

UIFSM £43,971

Rates Relief £4,435

15 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2025 £
Restricted funds					
<i>Restricted general funds</i>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	(79,177)	1,922,370	(1,937,928)	15,558	(79,177)
ESFA Pupil Premium	-	104,158	(104,158)	-	-
UIFSM	-	74,511	(74,511)	-	-
Teachers Pay Grant	-	31,446	(31,446)	-	-
Teachers Pension Grant	-	38,105	(38,105)	-	-
Core Schools Budget Grant	-	66,015	(66,015)	-	-
Early Years Budget Grant	-	1,205	(1,205)	-	-
Sports Funding	-	19,570	(19,570)	-	-
Other ESFA Grants	-	7,532	(7,532)	-	-
Employers NIC Grant	-	15,877	(15,877)	-	-
LA Funded Statements	-	135,826	(135,826)	-	-
CCC Early Years	-	182,292	(182,292)	-	-
Restricted catering	-	-	(22,450)	22,450	-
School Trips	(672)	67,432	(73,838)	16,487	9,409
Other educational income	-	11,500	(11,500)	-	-
LA Pupil Premium	-	1,500	(1,500)	-	-
Playdale Playground fund	9,477	18,300	(27,295)	(482)	-
School Council	-	6,000	(6,000)	-	-

Ghyllside School

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

15 Funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 September 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2025 £
<i>Restricted fixed asset funds</i>					
Fixed assets used for charitable purposes	2,705,137	-	(117,019)	2,250	2,590,368
ESFA formula capital	-	9,001	-	(6,366)	2,635
Total restricted funds	<u>2,634,765</u>	<u>2,712,640</u>	<u>(2,874,067)</u>	<u>49,897</u>	<u>2,523,235</u>
<i>Unrestricted general funds</i>					
Unrestricted general funds	93,748	50,213	-	(59,398)	84,563
<i>Unrestricted designated funds</i>					
Designated lettings fund	-	10,184	(4,921)	(5,263)	-
Designated catering fund	-	40,050	(54,814)	14,764	-
Total unrestricted funds	93,748	100,447	(59,735)	(49,897)	84,563
Total endowment funds	-	-	-	-	-
Total funds	<u>2,728,513</u>	<u>2,813,087</u>	<u>(2,933,802)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,607,798</u>

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

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
Restricted funds					
<i>Restricted general funds</i>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	(79,176)	1,828,073	(1,915,120)	87,046	(79,177)
ESFA Pupil Premium	-	117,272	(117,272)	-	-
UIFSM	-	75,470	(75,470)	-	-
Teachers Pay Grant	-	33,218	(33,218)	-	-
Teachers Pension Grant	-	15,877	(15,877)	-	-
Sports Funding	-	19,540	(19,540)	-	-
Other ESFA Grants	-	6,669	(6,669)	-	-
Maintained Schools Additional Grant	-	61,740	(61,740)	-	-
LA Funded Statements	-	173,323	(173,323)	-	-
CCC Early Years	-	120,216	(120,216)	-	-
Recovery Premium Grant	-	11,274	(11,274)	-	-

Ghyllside School

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

15 Funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
Restricted catering	-	-	(26,864)	26,864	-
School Trips	93	31,626	(38,141)	5,750	(672)
Other educational income	-	13,093	(13,093)	-	-
National Tutoring	-	(1,750)	1,750	-	-
LA Pupil Premium	-	2,292	(2,292)	-	-
Expedition Club	1,183	-	(1,183)	-	-
Playdale Playground fund	-	9,477	-	-	9,477
<i>Restricted fixed asset funds</i>					
Fixed assets used for charitable purposes	2,814,483	-	(116,456)	7,110	2,705,137
ESFA formula capital	<u>11,059</u>	<u>9,191</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(20,250)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>2,747,642</u>	<u>2,526,601</u>	<u>(2,745,998)</u>	<u>106,520</u>	<u>2,634,765</u>
<i>Unrestricted general funds</i>					
Unrestricted general funds	179,111	42,720	-	(128,083)	93,748
<i>Unrestricted designated funds</i>					
Designated lettings fund	-	9,682	(2,503)	(7,179)	-
Designated catering fund	<u>-</u>	<u>47,484</u>	<u>(76,226)</u>	<u>28,742</u>	<u>-</u>
Total unrestricted funds	179,111	99,886	(78,729)	(106,520)	93,748
Total endowment funds	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds	<u>2,926,753</u>	<u>2,626,487</u>	<u>(2,824,727)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,728,513</u>

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

Ghyllside School

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

15 Funds (continued)

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

General Annual Grant (GAG) fund:

This represents the core funding for the educational activities of the school that has been provided to the Academy via the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

Pupil Premium fund:

This represents funding paid by the Department for Education (DfE) to support disadvantaged students in their teaching and learning, with the aim of improving their attainment and closing the gap with more advantaged students.

Teachers Pay Grant (TPAG):

The Teachers Pay Grant is an additional Department for Education (DfE) grant to support schools to meet costs associated with September 2023 teachers pay award.

Teachers Pensions Employer Contribution Grant (TPECG):

An additional grant from The Department for Education (DfE) calculated on per pupil basis to cover 5% Teachers Pension Scheme Employer Rate From 1st April 24 to 31 March 27.

Core Schools Budget Grant (CSBG):

CSBG to support schools with their overall costs in the 2024 to 2025 financial year, in particular following confirmation of the 2024 teacher pay award and support staff pay award.

Schools Budget Support Grant (SBSG):

The Department for Education (DfE) has announced support to schools with the cost of pay awards in the 2025 to 2026 financial year.

PE and Sports Premium Grant:

The Department for Education (DfE) wants all children to have equal access to high quality PE provision and opportunities to experience and participate in a wide range of sports and physical activities.

Defined benefit pension scheme fund:

This represents the deficit or surplus on the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) at the year end.

Local Authority funded statements:

This represents funding from the Local Authority to pay for free nursery education for preschool students.

UIFSM:

UIFSM provide funding to offer free school meals to pupils in reception, year 1 and year 2.

Fixed assets used for charitable purposes:

This represents the value and movements on tangible fixed assets.

Fund balances for each academy at 31 August 2025 and 31 August 2024 were zero, hence a breakdown by academy is not included in these accounts.

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

16 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	-	-	2,590,368	2,590,368
Current assets	146,630	9,409	2,635	158,674
Current liabilities	<u>(62,068)</u>	<u>(79,176)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(141,244)</u>
Total net assets	<u>84,562</u>	<u>(69,767)</u>	<u>2,593,003</u>	<u>2,607,798</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	-	-	2,705,137	2,705,137
Current assets	93,750	69,930	-	163,680
Current liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>(140,302)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(140,302)</u>
Total net assets	<u>93,750</u>	<u>(70,372)</u>	<u>2,705,137</u>	<u>2,728,515</u>

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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	3,269	2,719
Amounts due between one and five years	8,253	8,624
	11,522	11,343

The leasehold land and buildings are subject to a 125 year lease with Cumbria County Council. Although a peppercorn rent may be demanded, no such rent has been demanded to date.

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

	2025 £	2024 £
Net expenditure	(120,714)	(198,242)
Depreciation	117,019	116,456
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(9,001)	(9,191)
Interest receivable	(20)	(28)
Interest payable	66	226
Decrease in stocks	157	3,796
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	1,529	(13,774)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	3,661	(106,869)
Net cash used in Operating Activities	(7,303)	(207,626)

19 Cash flows from financing activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Repayments of borrowing	(2,783)	(3,008)
Net cash used in financing activities	(2,783)	(3,008)

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

20 Cash flows from investing activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	20	28
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(2,250)	(7,110)
Capital funding received from sponsors and others	<u>9,001</u>	<u>9,191</u>
Net cash provided by investing activities	<u><u>6,771</u></u>	<u><u>2,109</u></u>

21 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash in hand and at bank	<u>57,965</u>	<u>61,280</u>
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u><u>57,965</u></u>	<u><u>61,280</u></u>

22 Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2024 £	At 31 August 2025 £
Cash	61,280	61,280
Loans falling due within one year	<u>(140,299)</u>	<u>(140,299)</u>
Total	<u><u>(79,019)</u></u>	<u><u>(79,019)</u></u>

23 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.

24 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 Your Pension Service. 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.

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

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

24 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

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. 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 SCAPE rate, set by HMT, is used to determine the notional investment return. The current SCAPE rate is 2.4% above the rate of CPI. Assumed real rate of return is 2.4% in excess of prices and 2% in excess of earnings. The rate of real earnings growth is assumed to be 2.2%. The assumed nominal rate of return including earnings growth is 4.45%.

The result of this valuation will be implemented from 1 April 2024. The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2028.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £288,434 (2024: £212,805).

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

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102, the TPS is an unfunded multi-employer pension scheme. The academy trust is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the plan. Accordingly, the academy trust has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS102 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.

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

24 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Local government pension schemes

Your Pension Service (YPS) for Cumbria County Council

The trustees have considered accounting for an LGPS pension surplus and the asset ceiling. The trustees do not consider there is a surplus to recognise, as they do not believe there is an economic benefit.

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 £168,592 (2024 - £167,088), of which employer's contributions totalled £131,578 (2024 - £130,128) and employees' contributions totalled £37,014 (2024 - £36,960). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 19.8% per cent for employers and 5.5%-12.5% per cent for employees. The scheme is managed by Cumbria LGPS.

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	4.10	4.10
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.70	2.70
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	6.20	5.00
Inflation assumptions (CPI)	2.60	2.60

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	21.40	21.40
Females retiring today	24.00	23.90
Retiring in 20 years		
Males retiring in 20 years	22.60	22.70
Females retiring in 20 years	25.50	25.60

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

24 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Sensitivity analysis

	2025	2024
	£	£
Mortality assumption 1 year increase	(36,000)	49,000
Pay growth + 0.25%	(20,000)	23,000
Discount rate + 0.5%	(164,000)	(203,000)
CPI rate + 0.25%	(87,000)	180,000
Change in investment returns +1%	(30,000)	(28,000)
Change in investment returns -1%	<u>30,000</u>	<u>28,000</u>

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

	2025	2024
	£	£
Equities	1,082,000	988,000
Government bonds	427,000	397,000
Property	227,000	211,000
Cash and other liquid assets	30,000	59,000
Other	<u>1,217,000</u>	<u>1,049,000</u>
Total market value of assets	<u>2,983,000</u>	<u>2,704,000</u>

The actual return on scheme assets was £152,000 (2024 - £204,000).

Derecognition of scheme surplus.

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

24 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

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

	2025	2024
	£	£
At start of period	2,414,000	2,141,000
Current service cost	108,000	107,000
Interest cost	120,000	115,000
Employee contributions	37,000	37,000
Actuarial (gain)/loss	(477,000)	70,000
Benefits paid	<u>(36,000)</u>	<u>(56,000)</u>
At 31 August	<u>2,166,000</u>	<u>2,414,000</u>

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

	2025	2024
	£	£
At start of period	2,704,000	2,394,000
Interest income	138,000	132,000
Actuarial gain/(loss)	15,000	72,000
Employer contributions	130,000	130,000
Employee contributions	37,000	37,000
Benefits paid	(36,000)	(56,000)
Effect of non-routine settlements	<u>(5,000)</u>	<u>(5,000)</u>
At 31 August	<u>2,983,000</u>	<u>2,704,000</u>

25 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the academy trust and the composition of the trustee board being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the trustees have an interest.

There were no related party transactions in the year, other than certain trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 9.