

Trustees' Report and

Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

for

Southfields Multi Academy Trust

Thorne Widgey Accountancy Ltd
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
2 Wyevale Business Park
Kings Acre
Hereford
Herefordshire
HR4 7BS

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for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

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MEMBERS:

M Banasiak (appointed 10.7.25)
M Golden (appointed 10.7.25)
S Goodden (appointed 10.7.25)
M Heathcote (resigned 10.7.25)
H Williamson-Cole (resigned 10.7.25)
J Moore (resigned 10.7.25)
S Hayday (resigned 10.7.25)

TRUSTEES

M Gaweda (appointed 1.9.24) (resigned 31.8.25)
W Golinska
S Hayday (resigned 10.7.25)
J Hickling
S Moodliar
J Read
S Taylor (Chair of Trustees)
S Tyler
J Valin CEO & Accounting Officer
K Travers (appointed 1.9.25)
A DeBono (appointed 10.7.25)
S Goodden (appointed 10.7.25)
M Golden (appointed 10.7.25)

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

J Valin	MAT CEO/Principal Southfields Academy
M Gaweda	Co-Head teacher Linden Lodge School
S Norris	Co-Head teacher Linden Lodge School
W Golinska	Head teacher Southfields Academy
J Garrikk-Collins	Director of Finance
J Judge	Director of IT

COMPANY NAME

Southfields Multi Academy Trust

COMPANY SECRETARY

REGISTERED OFFICE

Southfields Academy
333 Merton Road
London
SW18 5JU

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER

08190187 (England and Wales)

AUDITORS

Thorne Widgey Accountancy Ltd
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
2 Wyevale Business Park
Kings Acre
Hereford
Herefordshire
HR4 7BS

SOLICITORS

Winckworth Sherwood
Minerva House
5 Montague Close
SE1 9BB

BANKERS

Lloyds Bank
34 Moorgate
London
EC2R 6PL

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and the Report of the Auditors of the academy trust for the year 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' Report and a Directors' Report and Strategic Report under company law.

In 2024/25, the trust operated one secondary academy and one special school, both in Wandsworth.

Southfields Academy is an academy for students aged 11 to 19 and serves a large catchment area in south London. Southfields Academy had a roll of 1,180 in the school census in October 2024.

Linden Lodge School joined the Southfields Multi Academy Trust on 1 September 2018. Linden Lodge School provides a high quality educational experience for visually impaired pupils, including those who are multi-disabled visually impaired. Linden Lodge is recognized as a specialist Regional Centre for children aged between two and nineteen. The school also supports pupils with profound and multiple learning difficulties. Linden Lodge School is funded for 153 places.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The principal objectives and activities of the Southfields Multi Academy Trust is to provide an umbrella organisation that supports the very different educational aims of Linden Lodge School and Southfields Academy.

The aim of Southfields Academy to provide a broad and balanced education for pupils of all abilities in the south London area and beyond. The trustees have referred to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission in respect of public benefit when reviewing the aims and objectives of the multi academy trust.

Linden Lodge School has now joined the Southfields Multi Academy Trust and the Trust has followed the same aims and objectives in respect of Linden Lodge School with reference to the particular circumstances of Linden Lodge School's characteristics as a special school that serves the south-east England region.

In accordance with the articles of association, the multi academy trust has adopted a "Scheme of Government" approved by the Secretary of State for Education.

The Scheme of Government is part of the wider 'Master Funding Agreement' between the Company and the Secretary of State and 'Supplemental Funding Agreements' for each Academy.

The Scheme of Government specifies, amongst other things, that the trust will be at the heart of their community promoting community cohesion and sharing facilities; the basis for admitting students to the academies, that the curriculum should be broad and balanced; there will be an emphasis on the needs of individual pupils including pupils with SEN; the basis for charging pupils.

Objectives, strategies and activities

Our strategic aims for the MAT continue to be relevant for both schools.

Strategic Aims

- Broad and balanced curriculum that meets the diverse needs and ensures students are confident and successful.
- Outstanding teaching and learning resulting in strong student outcomes.
- Safe and well-behaved students whose parents/carers are involved in their education.
- Effective financial governance and management with fiscal sustainability of all schools within the MAT.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Public benefit

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

As a trust we make the best use of our skills, expertise and experience with regards to the community. Some examples of this are:

- o Raising money for local, national and international charities.
- o Inclusive sports programmes that provide sporting activities to local primary and special schools.
- o Support of local primary schools in a number of academic areas.
- o Supporting parents of children with special needs.
- o Offering facilities to local community organisations.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievements and performance

Key financial performance indicators

Southfields Academy

	Target	Key Stage 4 2025 Actual	Difference
Progress 8	N/A	N/A	N/A
Attainment 8	46.66	49.67	+3.01
% Grades 9 to 4 in English and mathematics	63%	62%	-1%
% Grades 9 to 5 in English and mathematics	43%	48%	+5%
% EBacc Grades 9 to 4 Cohort	8%	10%	+2%
		188	

Linden Lodge School

Progress data, 3-year comparison

	2022	2023	2024	2025
Below Expectation	0 (0%)	11 (7%)	5 (3%)	6 (4%)
Expected	83 (61%)	97 (66%)	112 (77%)	119 (78%)
Above Expectation	53 (39%)	39 (27%)	29 (20%)	27 (18%)

Key Insights:

Whole School Overview:

- Overall performance in 2024/25 was slower compared to the previous year across all three assessment categories.
- Despite this, intake and overall attainment increased significantly from 2022/23 levels, showing strong long-term growth.
- More students were enrolled in the Pre-Formal+ and Formal+ pathways, maintaining balanced approach across provision.

Pathway Performance:

- Sixth Form+ performed relatively better, with 50% of pathways achieving above expected outcomes.
- Semi-Formal+ Pathway recorded slower progress, with 9% of students below expectations.
- Pre-Formal+ and Formal+ Pathways showed stable or improving outcomes year-on-year.
- All pathways, apart from the Semi-Formal+, showed improvement in end-of-year assessments.

Key Stages and Groups:

- EYFS+ outcomes were in line with expectations, although this represents slower progress from 2023/24.
- Residential students continued to perform at or above expectations, highlighting the effectiveness of the enhanced provision.
- Two-thirds of year groups achieved at or above expected performance levels, showing consistency across cohorts.
- Performance across Key Stages remained broadly consistent, with isolated areas of improvement.

Disadvantaged Groups:

Pupil Premium and FSM students made steady progress. In the Semi-Formal+ and Formal+ pathways those students performed less well, mirroring trends from prior years.

Comparative Trends

Compared to 2023/24, performance dipped slightly, but progress was consistently strong across all pathways.

EYFS+ outcomes showed slower progress but Sixth Form+ outcomes doubled in strength year-on-year.

Trustees' Report
for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Attainment remained above previous years due to higher intake and strong moderation and quality assurance processes in place and improved outcomes in most pathways.

A more detailed finance review of the in year highlights is included later in this report.

Promoting the success of the company

Southfields Multi Academy Trust has due regard to the need to maintain a high reputation for the trust. Keeping a high reputation will help protect the on-going viability of the trust as it will attract more students and consequent funding. The trust will always be mindful of its reputation in the local community and beyond and it is always important that schools are a central part of the communities. It is not appropriate for schools to spend large amounts of money on marketing but both schools do use their websites and social media to publicise the successes of their students.

Financial review

Financial position

Most of Southfields Academy's, and a smaller proportion of Linden Lodge School's income is obtained from the Department for Education (DfE) in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE during the 12 month period ended 31 August 2025 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of financial activities.

The majority of Linden Lodge's income is received from local authorities in the form of top-up funding for named students. Southfields Academy receives a lower amount from local authorities. Local authority funding is shown as restricted funds in the Statement of financial activities.

Linden Lodge School, as a special school, is mainly reliant on funding from local authorities. This funding can be volatile and cash flow can be a risk for all special school academies as top-up funding is paid on invoice. To mitigate the cash flow risk, Linden Lodge School continues to employ a specialist in special needs recoupment.

The MAT CEO and Director of Finance have continued to review costs and significant savings have been found in staffing, and non-staffing areas such as energy utilities, cleaning, photocopying, telecoms and waste disposal. This will continue to be an on-going process.

At 31 August 2025 the net book value of fixed assets was £69,850,499 (2024: £71,025,158) and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in the notes to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the Academy.

During the year ended 31 August 2025, the excess of income over expenditure for the year (excluding restricted fixed asset and pension funds) was £729,911 (2024: £1,314,733)

Investment policy and objectives

It should be noted that the Multi Academy Trust has substantial power with regards to investments due to cash balances held. Investment policies are determined at academy level, which is agreed by the local Governing Body. This ensures the level of funds the Academy holds can cover any immediate expenditure, without exposing the Academies to additional risk. The only investments held by Southfields Academy are in safe deposit accounts. Trustees have agreed a Liquidity Policy that states that the equivalent of one month's salary should be held in a current account so as to be immediately available. This policy has also been applied to Linden Lodge School. Linden Lodge School continues to maintain a small portion of funds on deposit.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Financial review

Reserves policy

September 2025

Introduction

Academy Trusts are required to have a reserves policy in place to explain their plan for surplus funds. This plan is also reported in the Trust's annual report and accounts. This policy explains the current position for Southfields MAT's reserves.

Southfields MAT will endeavour to hold enough reserves to protect it financially in the short, medium and long term.

When our current deposit accounts mature we will be utilising layering funds across several months to ensure we are maintaining the best rates and ensuring we always have funds due to return for cash flow planning.

The Academy Trust's current level of reserves (total funds less the amount held in fixed assets and restricted funds) is £331,000 (2024: £331,000), all of which is free reserves. The level of general restricted reserves is £11,299,115 (2024: £10,569,204).

Short Term Reserves

Schools within Southfields MAT will aim to keep funds in their current account that equal one month of salary and associated on-costs (employer's national insurance and pension contributions). These can be seen as cash flow reserves.

In 2025-26 that is approximately:

Linden Lodge School: £700,000

Southfields School £900,000

Medium Term Reserves

Medium term reserves should be held in a deposit account with 32 day access and this is in place for relatively unknown issues. This could be for issues such as premises, IT infrastructure or staffing. These are also cash flow reserves.

Both 32 and 91 day interest accounts are held by Southfields Academy and the interest generated will be paid to Southfields Academy. The base funds are available to alleviate financial issues for both Linden Lodge School and Southfields Academy.

At 1st September 2025, approximately £1.2m was held on short term deposit.

Long Term Reserves

Long term reserves are held in varying accounts from 6 month to 15 months access accounts and these funds are held for large items of capital expenditure (listed below). These can be seen as a combination of Contingency, Planned Investment and Improvement and Strategic Development and Growth.

These funds are held by Southfields Academy and the interest generated goes to Southfields. The base funds are available for the use of both schools in the trust.

At 1st September 2025, approximately £9,500,000 was held in a long term deposit account.

The highest possible interest rates will be sought for all funds on deposit.

These funds are held in anticipation of, and to mitigate against, the following issues;

- Shortfalls in income for Linden Lodge. This can be caused by inadequate increases in funding from local authorities.
- Shortfalls in income for Southfields Academy. This may be caused by falling student numbers.
- Unfunded pay awards for both schools. Unfunded support staff pay awards have adversely affected both schools but especially Linden Lodge as special schools have a higher proportion of support staff.
- Major repairs or replacement of the swimming pool at Linden Lodge School. This pool is possibly 50 years old.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Financial review

- Major repairs or replacement of the swimming pool at Southfields Academy. This pool is possibly 60 years old.
- Asbestos removal at Linden Lodge School.
- Replacement of boilers at Linden Lodge School.
- Replacement of air handling units at Southfields Academy.
- Replacement of artificial football pitch at Southfields Academy - this is a requirement of the original grant to install it.

Going concern

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

Fundraising

Linden Lodge School raises funds through a charity called The Linden Lodge Charitable Trust. The Trust raises significant amounts of money which it then passports to Linden Lodge School for specific projects. Linden Lodge School and The Linden Lodge Charitable Trust have also jointly procured a professional fundraiser to raise sums of money for specific projects such as the playground and most recently the sports and performing arts centre.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The Companies Act 2006 s417(3b) requires disclosure of the principal risks and uncertainties facing a company. The Trust is exposed to a number of financial risks including credit, cash flow and liquidity risks. Given the Trust's exposure to financial instruments being limited, the exposure principally relates to bank balances, cash and trade creditors, with limited trade (and other) debtors. The trust's system of internal controls ensures risk is minimal in these areas.

A risk register has been established and is updated regularly. Where appropriate, systems or procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the Trust faces. Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Trust is exposed, in particular those relating to the specific teaching, provision of facilities and other operational areas of the Trust, and its finances. The trustees have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the Academies face, 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 Multi Academy Trust has an effective system of internal financial controls and this is explained in more detail in the Governance Statement.

It should also be noted that procedures are in place to ensure compliance with the health and safety regulations, pertaining to both staff and pupils.

The trustees also are fully aware of their responsibilities to ensure that the trust's estate is safe, well maintained and compliant with the relevant regulations.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Future plans

Linden Lodge School joined the Southfields Multi Academy Trust on 1 September 2018. The Trust has no immediate plans to add further schools though it will continue to talk to interested, local schools, if they wish to explore their options regarding academy status. The overall aim will be to ensure that the Trust is sustainable and capable of fully supporting all of its member schools.

The Trust will continue to pursue procurement opportunities that offer value for money and will seek, wherever practical, to find procurement savings across the Trust.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Charity 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 Southfields Multi Academy Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company operates as Southfields Multi Academy Trust and the two schools with the Trust operate under their own names: Linden Lodge School and Southfields Academy.

Details of the trustees who served during the year, and to the date these accounts are approved are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on the preceding pages of this document.

Members' liability

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

Trustees' indemnities

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

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The management of the academy is the responsibility of the trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Articles of Association and funding agreement as follows:

- The MAT Chief Executive Officer
- Up to 9 trustees, appointed by the members
- A secondary school headteacher from within the Trust
- A special school headteacher from within the Trust
- A primary school headteacher from within the Trust (when appropriate)

The term of office for any trustee is 4 years. The MAT CEO's term of office runs parallel with her term of appointment. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of trustee, any trustee may be reappointed or re-elected.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Organisational structure

The academy has established a management structure to enable its efficient running. The structure consists of two levels: the trustees and the executives who are the senior leadership team.

The governing body has considered its role thoughtfully and decided that the role of the trustees is to approve the strategic direction and objectives of the academy and monitor its progress towards these objectives.

The governing body has approved a scheme of delegation which sets out a statement on the system of internal control, responsibilities, standing orders, a scheme of delegation and terms of reference. The headteacher is directly responsible for the day to day running of the academy and is assisted by a senior leadership team.

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

The chief executive assumes the accounting officer role.

Induction and training of new trustees

The training and induction provided for new trustees will depend on their individual experience and expertise. Where necessary an induction will provide training on charity and educational, legal and financial matters. All new trustees are given a tour of the academy and the chance to meet with staff and students. All governors are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to understand their role as trustees and directors of the academy.

Key management remuneration

The Personnel Committee is responsible for the implementation of the Trust Pay Policy and this includes carrying out annual pay reviews for the CEO/Principal, Head teachers of schools within the Trust (currently Linden Lodge School and Southfields Academy) and other members of the Senior Leadership Teams for each academy.

Trade union facility time

This information is published in accordance with the provisions of the Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2017 because the academy trust had a full-time equivalent employee number of more than 49 throughout the entirety of any seven of the months within the year ended 31 August 2025.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	Full-time equivalent employee number
2	186

Percentage of time spent on facility time

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

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

	£
Total cost of facility time	Nil
Total pay bill	20,203,408

Percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time calculated as:

$$(\text{total cost of facility time} \div \text{total pay bill}) \times 100 \quad 0\%$$

Paid trade union activities

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

$$(\text{total hours spent on paid trade union activities by relevant union officials during the relevant period} \div \text{total paid facility time hours}) \times 100 \quad 0\%$$

There was no trade union facility time in 24/25.

Related parties

Southfields Academy was the founding member of the Southfields Multi Academy Trust which is a separate Trust where Southfields Academy and Linden Lodge School are the two members. The Trust undertakes educational support activities.

Southfields Academy has relationships with other charities, as named below, with which it cooperates in the pursuit of charitable activities:

nursery@aspire Charity No. 1149367
aspire@southfields Charity No. 1147877
Friends of Southfields Academy Charity No. 0802055

Linden Lodge School has a strong relationship with the charity below that exists to raise funds for Linden Lodge School.

The Linden Lodge Charitable Trust Charity No. 1168169

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)

During 24/25 both schools within the academy conducted surveys on staff wellbeing and working environment, the results of these surveys helped to shape inset days and training throughout the year as well as staff being offered a range of benefits to improve their wellbeing such as mental health support and flexible working arrangements.

Staff were given time to complete these surveys during inset days to ensure maximum engagement.

Staff were also given opportunities to share feedback in specific areas such as mentoring, coaching and lesson observations.

Engagement with suppliers, customers and others

The trust is aware of the need to foster good business relations with suppliers, customers and other stakeholders. Suppliers will be paid on time and will be appointed fairly. Customers will receive the service that they have paid for. Other stakeholders are particularly important in an education setting and will include students, parents, local authorities and government departments. Trustees will always have regard for these stakeholders and they will form the backdrop to all discussions within the trust.

FUNDS HELD AS CUSTODIAN FOR OTHERS

The Academy Trust and / or its trustees did not act as custodian trustee during the current or previous period.

Trustees' Report
for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

STREAMLINED ENERGY AND CARBON REPORTING

	1 Sept 2024 - 31 Aug 2025	1 Sept 2023 - 31 Aug 2024
UK Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data for the period		
Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh)	5,117,752.29	4,971,017.20
Energy consumption break down (kWh) [optional]		
- Gas		
- Electric		
- Transport fuel		
<u>Scope 1 - emissions in metric tonnes CO2e</u>		
Gas consumption	591.85	577.81
Owned transport - mini-busses	1.45	1.03
<u>Total scope 1</u>	593.3	578.84
<u>Scope 2 - emissions in metric tonnes CO2e</u>		
Purchased electricity	333.28	375.14
<u>Scope 3 - emissions in metric tonnes CO2e</u>		
Business travel in employee owned vehicles	0	0
Total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO2e	926.58	953.99
<u>Intensity ratio</u>		
Tonnes CO2e per pupil	0.70	0.65

Qualification and Reporting Methodology

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

Intensity Measurement

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

Measures taken to improve energy efficiency

There have been a few major improvements across the trust in 24/25:

- New boilers x3 fitted in the Swimming Pool Building
- On-going transition to LED lighting, replaced over 50 inefficient, fluorescent fittings 2024-2025
- Solar film installed on East House to reduce heat gain
- New blinds installed in over 15 rooms across site to reduce heat gain
- Installed 14 wall fans to improve cooling in the summer
- 1 new boiler
- 2 out of the 4 boilers to be repaired.
- One new calorifier installed in boiler room to improve hot water efficiency
- On-going transition to LED lighting
- Most windows removed from BMS system

Trustees' Report
for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

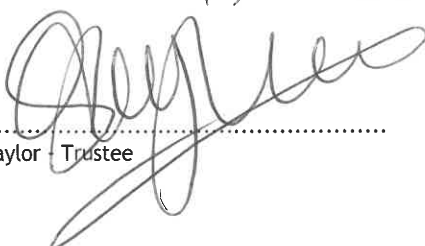
STATEMENT AS TO DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS

So far as the trustees are aware, there is no relevant information (as defined by Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006) of which the academy trust's auditors are unaware, and each trustee has taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make them aware of any audit information and to establish that the academy trust's auditors are aware of that information.

AUDITORS

The auditors, Thorne Widgery Accountancy Ltd, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on and signed on the board's behalf by:


.....
S Taylor - Trustee

SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

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

As trustees, we have reviewed and taken account of the guidance in DfE's Governance Guide.

The board of trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the CEO, 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 Southfields Multi Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

GOVERNANCE

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The board of trustees has formally met 3 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of trustees was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
S Hayday (resigned 10.7.25)	0	3
J Valin (CEO & Accounting Officer)	3	3
K Travers	3	3
W Golinska	3	3
S Tyler	3	3
S Taylor ((Chair of Trustees))	3	3
S Moodliar	2	3
J Read	2	3
J Hickling	2	3
M Gaweda (appointed 1.9.24) (resigned 31.8.25)	3	3

A DeBono, S Goodden and M Golden were all appointed after the last meeting date (Attendance 0 out 0).

In 24/25 the Policy, Finance and Premises committee was a sub-committee of the main board of trustees. The meetings are held as part of the MAT Trustee Board. One of its key roles is to ensure the Trust is following the DfE's funding regulations and guidance. This committee incorporated the audit committee function for the Trust.

Conflicts of interest

We maintain an up to date register of interests and at the start of all trustee meetings any further interests are declared. The register is used in the day-to-day management and governance of the trust.

Governance reviews

We are currently carrying out a skills audit and as part of the trustee self-assessment to look at the impact and effectiveness of the board of trustees.

We will be holding a strategic away day in January.

Governance Statement
for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

REVIEW OF VALUE FOR MONEY

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

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

Continuing to review staffing levels and only filling vacancies where it was necessary for educational, operational

- or safeguarding reasons.
- Continuing to review all non-staffing contracts as they fall due.
- Reviewing means of increasing income to both schools in the trust.
- Reducing the use of Agency staff in Linden Lodge School
- Using benchmarking against other schools to look for areas of improvement

THE PURPOSE OF THE SYSTEM OF INTERNAL CONTROL

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

CAPACITY TO HANDLE RISK

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

THE RISK AND CONTROL FRAMEWORK

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

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

The board of trustees has decided to buy-in an internal audit service from Academy Audit.

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

Academy Audit carried out termly reviews and covered the following areas:

- Governance, Financial Management & Compliance.
- Banking.
- Payroll.
- Fixed assets.
- Procurement.
- Special Payments.
- Management Accounts.
- Leases.
- Other areas as appropriate.

On a termly basis, the MAT Director of Finance reports to the board of trustees, through the finance and operations committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities and annually prepares an annual summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

The agreed schedule of work has been delivered as planned. No material control issues were identified as a result of the work undertaken.

REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS

As Accounting Officer, the Headteacher/CEO has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the period in question the review has been informed by:

- the work of the Internal Audit Scrutiny, carried out by Academy Audit;
- the school resource management self-assessment tool
- the work of the Senior Leaders 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 e.g. financial notice to improve/notice to improve (FNtI/NtI) and 'minded to' letters.


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

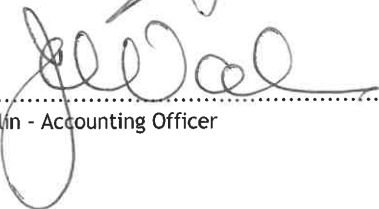
Governance Statement
for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

CONCLUSION

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on11/12/25..... and signed on its behalf by:


.....
S Taylor - Trustee


.....
J Valin - Accounting Officer

Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance
for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

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

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

I confirm that the following instances of material irregularity, impropriety or non-compliance have been discovered to date and have been notified to the board of trustees and DfE. If any further instances are identified after the date of this statement, these will be notified to the board of trustees and DfE:

During the year, the Academy did not prepare monthly management accounts for all 12 months of the year. Management accounts were also not always circulated to the Chair. This is a breach of sections 2.18 and 2.19 of the Academy Trust Handbook 2024.


.....
J Valin - Accounting Officer

Date:11/12/25.....

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities
for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

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

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

The trustees are responsible for ensuring that in its conduct and operation the charitable company applies financial and other controls, which conform with the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring grants received from the EFSA/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 board of trustees on 11/12/25 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
S Taylor Trustee

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Southfields Multi Academy Trust (the 'academy trust') for the year ended 31 August 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement 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, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and the Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by the Department for Education (DfE).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the academy trust's affairs as at 31 August 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the 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 Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the academy trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The 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 Report of the Independent Auditors 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters 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, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to both the Academy itself and the sector in which it operates. We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements from our sector experience and through discussion with the trustees and other management. The most significant were identified as the Department for Education, the Academy Trust Handbook 2024, the Academies Accounts Direction 2025, Companies Act legislation and Charities Act and FRS102 SORP legislation.

We considered the extent of compliance with those laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statements. Our audit procedures included:

- Making enquiries of management as to where they consider there to be a susceptibility to fraud and whether they have any knowledge or suspicion of fraud;
- Obtaining an understanding of the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Assessing the design effectiveness of the controls in place to prevent and detect fraud;
- Assessing the risk of management override including identifying and testing journal entries;
- Challenging the assumptions and judgements made by management in its significant accounting estimates.

Whilst our audit did not identify any significant matters relating to the detection of irregularities including fraud, and despite the audit being planned and conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK), there remains an unavoidable risk that material misstatements in the financial statements may not be detected owing to inherent limitations of the audit, and that by their very nature, any such instances of fraud or irregularity would likely involve collusion, forgery, intentional misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls.

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

Use of our report

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



Lisa Weaver FCCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Thorne Widgery Accountancy Ltd
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
2 Wyevale Business Park
Kings Acre
Hereford
Herefordshire
HR4 7BS

Date: 18/12/25

In accordance with the terms of our engagement 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 Southfields Multi Academy Trust during the period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 have not been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of the accounting officer of Southfields Multi Academy Trust and the reporting accountant

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

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

Approach

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants 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 our conclusions includes:

- detailed testing of a sample of items of income and expenditure to ensure appropriately applied for the purpose intended
- specific testing, on a sample basis, of system controls relevant to the above
- a general review of correspondence with the appropriate authorities regarding Academy governance matters during the year
- a general review and discussion of the Academy's internal control procedures for establishing and maintaining systems of control and documentation regarding these matters

This work was integrated with our audit on the financial statements to the extent evidence from the conduct of that audit supports the regularity conclusion.

Conclusion

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

However, during the year, the Academy did not prepare monthly management accounts for all 12 months of the year. This is a breach of sections 2.18 and 2.19 of the Academy Trust Handbook 2024.

Thorne Widgery

Thorne Widgery Accountancy Ltd
Chartered Accountants
Reporting Accountant
2 Wyevale Business Park
Kings Acre
Hereford
Herefordshire
HR4 7BS

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

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

					31.8.25	31.8.24
	Notes	General Fund £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Restricted General Fund £	Total funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM						
Donations and capital grants	2	-	206,144	172,751	378,895	180,050
Charitable activities						
Funding for the academy's educational operations	3	-	-	24,477,117	24,477,117	23,119,669
Other trading activities	4	542,081	-	152,527	694,608	591,065
Investment income	5	333,377	-	-	333,377	346,336
Other income	6	-	-	-	-	472,000
Total		875,458	206,144	24,802,395	25,883,997	24,709,120
EXPENDITURE ON						
Charitable activities						
Academy's educational operations	8	875,458	1,461,989	23,659,301	25,996,748	24,457,930
Total		875,458	1,461,989	23,659,301	25,996,748	24,457,930
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		-	(1,255,845)	1,143,094	(112,751)	251,190
Transfers between funds	20	-	81,183	(81,183)	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit schemes		-	-	(332,000)	(332,000)	(269,000)
Net movement in funds		-	(1,174,662)	729,911	(444,751)	(17,810)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
Total funds brought forward		331,000	71,025,161	10,569,204	81,925,365	81,943,175
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		331,000	69,850,499	11,299,115	81,480,614	81,925,365

The notes form part of these financial statements

Balance Sheet
31 August 2025

	Notes	31.8.25 £	31.8.24 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	14	69,850,499	71,025,158
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	15	1,079,177	1,262,624
Investments	16	9,051,961	8,706,453
Cash at bank and in hand		3,265,221	2,426,243
		<u>13,396,359</u>	<u>12,395,320</u>
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	17	(1,766,244)	(1,495,113)
		<u>11,630,115</u>	<u>10,900,207</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
		<u>11,630,115</u>	<u>10,900,207</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>81,480,614</u>	<u>81,925,365</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>81,480,614</u>	<u>81,925,365</u>
FUNDS	20		
Restricted funds:			
General Annual Grant		11,112,174	10,569,204
Other restricted funds		186,941	-
Restricted Fixed Assets		69,850,499	71,025,161
		<u>81,149,614</u>	<u>81,594,365</u>
Unrestricted funds:			
General fund		331,000	331,000
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>81,480,614</u>	<u>81,925,365</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 11/12/25 and were signed on its behalf by:

S Taylor - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

Cash Flow Statement
for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

	Notes	31.8.25 £	31.8.24 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	1,099,459	472,214
Net cash provided by operating activities		1,099,459	472,214
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(287,328)	(121,500)
Capital grants from DfE/EFA		38,980	39,145
Movement in current asset investments		(345,510)	(1,963,225)
Interest received		333,377	346,336
Net cash used in investing activities		(260,481)	(1,699,244)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		838,978	(1,227,030)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		2,426,243	3,653,273
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		3,265,221	2,426,243

The notes form part of these financial statements

Notes to the Cash Flow Statement
for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	31.8.25 £	31.8.24 £
Net (expenditure)/income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	(112,751)	251,190
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	1,461,989	1,454,041
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA	(38,980)	(39,145)
Interest received	(333,377)	(346,336)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	183,447	(326,173)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	271,131	(252,363)
Difference between pension charge and cash contributions	(332,000)	(269,000)
Net cash provided by operations	1,099,459	472,214

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.9.24 £	Cash flow £	At 31.8.25 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank and in hand	2,426,243	838,978	3,265,221
	2,426,243	838,978	3,265,221
Liquid resources			
Deposits included in cash	-	-	-
Current asset investments	8,706,453	345,508	9,051,961
	8,706,453	345,508	9,051,961
Total	11,132,696	1,184,486	12,317,182

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the academy trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by the DfE, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Southfields Multi Academy Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Going concern

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

Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit balance depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements, will impact the carrying amount of the pension balance. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions balance at the year end. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension balance.

Where the year end valuation balance is in a surplus position, the closing valuation on the balance sheet has been recognised as nil in acknowledgement that the trust would not be entitled to a refund of this surplus.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the academy trust has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Grants

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

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Grants

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 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 it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Donations

Donations are recognised on a receivable basis (where there are no performance related conditions), where it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Agency arrangements

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

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'.

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.

Charitable activities

Costs of charitable activities are 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.

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

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Tangible fixed assets

Assets costing £5,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

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

Freehold property	10 - 50 years
Long leasehold	10 - 50 years
Plant and machinery	3 years
Fixtures and fittings	5 years
Computer equipment	5 years
Motor vehicles	10 years

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

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

Liabilities

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

Provisions

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

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

Leased Assets

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

Current Assets Investments

Longer-term fixed deposit accounts over the period of 6 months.

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

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Financial instruments

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in notes to the financial statements. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Amounts due to the charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in notes to the financial statements. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument. Amounts due to charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

Taxation

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

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

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the academy trust. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pensions benefits

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

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.

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

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Pensions benefits

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.

2. DONATIONS AND CAPITAL GRANTS

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.8.25 Total funds £	31.8.24 Total funds £
Donations	-	339,915	339,915	140,905
Grants	-	38,980	38,980	39,145
	<u>-</u>	<u>378,895</u>	<u>378,895</u>	<u>180,050</u>

All of the figures included in the comparatives related to restricted funds.

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	31.8.25 £	31.8.24 £
DfE Capital grants	<u>38,980</u>	<u>39,145</u>

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

3. FUNDING FOR THE ACADEMY TRUST'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.8.25 Total funds £	31.8.24 Total funds £
DfE/ESFA grants				
General Annual Grant(GAG)	-	11,813,036	11,813,036	11,643,408
Other DfE/EFSA grants				
Other DfE grants	-	265,107	265,107	590,365
Pupil premium	-	461,405	461,405	469,012
Teachers pay grant	-	134,577	134,577	551,337
Teachers pension grant	-	253,161	253,161	-
Core school budget grant	-	835,607	835,607	-
	-	13,762,893	13,762,893	13,254,122
Other Government grants				
Local authority grants	-	8,990,897	8,990,897	8,494,604
Other government grants	-	32,833	32,833	95,217
	-	9,023,730	9,023,730	8,589,821
Other income from the academy trust's educational operations	-	1,690,494	1,690,494	1,275,726
	-	24,477,117	24,477,117	23,119,669

All of the figures included in the comparatives related to restricted funds.

4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.8.25 Total funds £	31.8.24 Total funds £
Consultancy income	-	72,550	72,550	22,610
Recharge income	93,264	-	93,264	22,414
Lettings & hire of facilities	448,817	2	448,819	445,701
Departmental income	-	53,491	53,491	81,330
Other	-	26,484	26,484	19,010
	542,081	152,527	694,608	591,065

All of the figures included in the comparatives related to restricted funds.

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

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.8.25 Total funds £	31.8.24 Total funds £
Deposit account interest	<u>333,377</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>333,377</u>	<u>346,336</u>

All of the figures included in the comparatives related to restricted funds.

6. OTHER INCOME

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.8.25 Total funds £	31.8.24 Total funds £
Other income	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>472,000</u>

All of the figures included in the comparatives related to unrestricted funds.

7. EXPENDITURE

	Staff costs £	Non-pay expenditure Premises £	Other costs £	31.8.25 Total £	31.8.24 Total £
Charitable activities					
Academy's educational operations					
Direct costs	15,453,947	-	711,482	16,165,429	15,000,416
Allocated support costs	<u>4,772,218</u>	<u>3,788,884</u>	<u>1,270,217</u>	<u>9,831,319</u>	<u>9,457,514</u>
	<u>20,226,165</u>	<u>3,788,884</u>	<u>1,981,699</u>	<u>25,996,748</u>	<u>24,457,930</u>

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	31.8.25 £	31.8.24 £
Auditors' remuneration	26,220	21,215
Depreciation - owned assets	1,461,987	1,454,041
Operating lease payments	<u>20,657</u>	<u>20,657</u>

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

8. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES - ACADEMY'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.8.25 Total funds £	31.8.24 Total funds £
Direct costs	875,458	15,289,971	16,165,429	15,000,416
Support costs	-	9,831,319	9,831,319	9,457,514
	<u>875,458</u>	<u>25,121,290</u>	<u>25,996,748</u>	<u>24,457,930</u>

	31.8.25 Total £	31.8.24 Total £
Analysis of support costs		
Support staff costs	4,772,218	4,578,999
Depreciation	200,137	199,566
Premises costs	3,788,884	3,631,094
Legal costs - other	139,487	277,435
Other support costs	904,373	749,205
Governance costs	26,220	21,215
Total support costs	<u>9,831,319</u>	<u>9,457,514</u>

The comparatives include unrestricted funds of £141,000 and restricted funds of £24,316,930 giving a total of £24,457,930.

9. STAFF COSTS

	31.8.25 £	31.8.24 £
Wages and salaries	13,745,776	13,170,801
Social security costs	1,616,435	1,231,746
Operating costs of defined benefit pension schemes	3,029,004	2,788,771
	<u>18,391,215</u>	<u>17,191,318</u>
Supply teacher costs	1,812,193	1,709,251
Compensation payments	22,757	-
	<u>20,226,165</u>	<u>18,900,569</u>

The average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the academy trust during the year was as follows:

	31.8.25	31.8.24
Management	23	24
Teachers	111	118
Support	260	211
	<u>394</u>	<u>353</u>

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

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

9. STAFF COSTS - continued

	31.8.25	31.8.24
£60,001 - £70,000	38	25
£70,001 - £80,000	7	5
£80,001 - £80,000	5	6
£90,001 - £80,000	4	4
£100,001 - £80,000	2	1
£170,001 - £180,000	-	1
£180,001 - £190,000	1	-
£240,001 - £250,000	-	1
£260,001 - £270,000	1	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>

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 employee benefits (including employer pension contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £1,027,652 (2024: £799,235).

Special staff severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are special severance payments totalling £26,791 (2024: £16,153). Individually, the payments were: £14,68 and £8,069.

10. CENTRAL SERVICES

The academy trust does not operate a central services operation however central costs are paid through the Southfields Academy and an annual recharge is received from Linden Lodge School.

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

Central staffing costs including CEO and CFO

Strategic facilities management

School improvement support

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

2% of budgeted income

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	31.8.25 £000's	31.8.24 £000's
Southfields Academy	-	-
Linden Lodge School	199	168
	<u>199</u>	<u>168</u>

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

11. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS - TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

There was no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 August 2025 nor for the year ended 31 August 2024.

		2025	2024
J Valin	Remuneration	£265,000 - £270,000	£245,000 - £250,000
CEO & Accounting Officer	Employers Pension Contributions	Nil	Nil
W Golinska	Remuneration	£180,000 - £185,000	£170,000 - £175,000
	Employers Pension Contributions	£50,000 - £55,000	£45,000 - £50,000
M Gaweda	Remuneration	£100,000 - £105,000	£90,000 - £95,000
Resigned 31.8.25	Employers Pension Contributions	£25,000 - £30,000	£20,000 - £25,000

During the period ended 31 August 2025, travel and subsistence expenses totalling £1,265 were reimbursed or paid directly to 1 trustees (2024: £414 to 1 trustees).

12. TRUSTEES' AND OFFICERS' INSURANCE

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the academy trust has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy trust business. The insurance provides cover up to £5,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the period ended 31 August 2025. The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

13. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	General Fund £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Restricted General Fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM				
Donations and capital grants	-	39,145	140,905	180,050
Charitable activities				
Funding for the academy's educational operations	-	-	23,119,669	23,119,669
Other trading activities	-	-	591,065	591,065
Investment income	-	-	346,336	346,336
Other income	472,000	-	-	472,000
Total	472,000	39,145	24,197,975	24,709,120
EXPENDITURE ON				
Charitable activities				
Academy's educational operations	141,000	1,454,041	22,862,889	24,457,930
Total	141,000	1,454,041	22,862,889	24,457,930

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

13. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued

	General Fund £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Restricted General Fund £	Total funds £
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	331,000	(1,414,896)	1,335,086	251,190
Transfers between funds	-	82,355	(82,355)	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)				
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit schemes	-	-	(269,000)	(269,000)
Net movement in funds	331,000	(1,332,541)	983,731	(17,810)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	-	72,357,702	9,585,473	81,943,175
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	331,000	71,025,161	10,569,204	81,925,365

14. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Long leasehold £	Plant and machinery £
COST			
At 1 September 2024	53,907,509	29,825,537	994,817
Additions	15,306	76,665	4,180
At 31 August 2025	53,922,815	29,902,202	998,997
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 September 2024	12,172,885	1,106,928	963,095
Charge for year	1,052,015	209,836	4,621
At 31 August 2025	13,224,900	1,316,764	967,716
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 August 2025	40,697,915	28,585,438	31,281
At 31 August 2024	41,734,624	28,718,609	31,722

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

14. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS - continued

	Fixtures and fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST				
At 1 September 2024	1,648,942	68,589	973,918	87,419,312
Additions	17,882	54,836	118,459	287,328
At 31 August 2025	1,666,824	123,425	1,092,377	87,706,640
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 September 2024	1,549,529	59,989	541,728	16,394,154
Charge for year	56,403	6,128	132,984	1,461,987
At 31 August 2025	1,605,932	66,117	674,712	17,856,141
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 August 2025	60,892	57,308	417,665	69,850,499
At 31 August 2024	99,413	8,600	432,190	71,025,158

Included in cost or valuation of freehold and leasehold land and buildings if land of £35,199,000 (2024: £35,199,000) which is not depreciated.

Land and buildings are included at an appropriate valuation upon conversion to academy status. The governing board has reviewed the valuation during the year and do not consider any impairment adjustment is necessary as the asset remains to meet its purpose of intended use and is in a good state of repair. For more details on impairment reviews please refer to the accounting policies.

15. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.8.25 £	31.8.24 £
Trade debtors	383,309	439,874
Other debtors	12,592	601
VAT	130,319	234,954
Prepayments and accrued income	552,957	587,195
	1,079,177	1,262,624

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

16. CURRENT ASSET INVESTMENTS

	31.8.25	31.8.24
	£	£
Other	9,051,961	8,706,453

Current asset investments related to fixed term deposit accounts with funds invested for over 6 months.

17. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.8.25	31.8.24
	£	£
Trade creditors	439,300	360,025
Social security and other taxes	382,777	327,023
Other creditors	315,786	342,445
Accruals and deferred income	628,381	465,620
	<u>1,766,244</u>	<u>1,495,113</u>

DEFERRED INCOME

	31.8.25	31.8.24
	£	£
Deferred Income at 1 September	1,348	305,578
Resources deferred in the year	2,636	1,348
Amounts released from previous years	(1,348)	(305,578)
Deferred Income at 31 August	<u>2,636</u>	<u>1,348</u>

Deferred income is made up of the following balances:

31.8.25	31.8.24
£	£
2,636	1,348

16-19 Bursary

18. MEMBERS' LIABILITY

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

19. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	General Fund	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds	Restricted General Fund	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	-	69,850,499	-	69,850,499
Current assets	331,000	-	13,065,359	13,396,359
Current liabilities	-	-	(1,766,244)	(1,766,244)
	<u>331,000</u>	<u>69,850,499</u>	<u>11,299,115</u>	<u>81,480,614</u>

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

19. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - continued

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

		Restricted Fixed Asset Funds	Restricted General Fund	31.8.24 Total funds
	General Fund £	£	£	£
Fixed assets	-	71,025,158	-	71,025,158
Current assets	331,000	2	12,064,318	12,395,320
Current liabilities	-	1	(1,495,114)	(1,495,113)
	<u>331,000</u>	<u>71,025,161</u>	<u>10,569,204</u>	<u>81,925,365</u>

20. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.9.24 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.8.25 £
Restricted general funds				
General Annual Grant	10,569,204	624,153	(81,183)	11,112,174
Other restricted funds	-	186,941	-	186,941
Restricted Fixed Assets	71,025,161	(1,294,825)	120,163	69,850,499
DfE Capital Grants	-	38,980	(38,980)	-
	<u>81,594,365</u>	<u>(444,751)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>81,149,614</u>
Unrestricted fund				
General fund	331,000	-	-	331,000
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>81,925,365</u>	<u>(444,751)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>81,480,614</u>

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

20. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Restricted general funds				
General Annual Grant	11,813,038	(11,188,885)	-	624,153
DfE Pupil Premium	461,405	(461,405)	-	-
DfE Teachers pay, pension & NICs grants	450,721	(450,721)	-	-
DfE Other grants	1,037,731	(1,037,731)	-	-
Other restricted local authority funding	8,990,897	(8,990,897)	-	-
Other restricted funds	2,048,603	(1,861,662)	-	186,941
Pension Reserve	-	332,000	(332,000)	-
Restricted Fixed Assets	167,164	(1,461,989)	-	(1,294,825)
DfE Capital Grants	38,980	-	-	38,980
	<u>25,008,539</u>	<u>(25,121,290)</u>	<u>(332,000)</u>	<u>(444,751)</u>
Unrestricted fund				
General fund	875,458	(875,458)	-	-
	<u>25,883,997</u>	<u>(25,996,748)</u>	<u>(332,000)</u>	<u>(444,751)</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.9.23 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.8.24 £
Restricted general funds				
General Annual Grant	9,585,473	1,066,086	(82,355)	10,569,204
Restricted Fixed Assets	72,357,702	(1,454,041)	121,500	71,025,161
DfE Capital Grants	-	39,145	(39,145)	-
	<u>81,943,175</u>	<u>(348,810)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>81,594,365</u>
Unrestricted fund				
General fund	-	331,000	-	331,000
	<u>81,943,175</u>	<u>(17,810)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>81,925,365</u>

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

20. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Restricted general funds				
General Annual Grant	11,643,410	(10,577,324)	-	1,066,086
DfE Pupil Premium	469,012	(469,012)	-	-
DfE Teachers pay, pension & NICs grants	551,337	(551,337)	-	-
DfE Other grants	562,266	(562,266)	-	-
Other restricted local authority funding	8,033,248	(8,033,248)	-	-
Other restricted funds	2,938,702	(2,938,702)	-	-
Pension Reserve	-	269,000	(269,000)	-
Restricted Fixed Assets	-	(1,454,041)	-	(1,454,041)
DfE Capital Grants	39,145	-	-	39,145
	<u>24,237,120</u>	<u>(24,316,930)</u>	<u>(269,000)</u>	<u>(348,810)</u>
Unrestricted fund				
General fund	472,000	(141,000)	-	331,000
	<u>472,000</u>	<u>(141,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>331,000</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>24,709,120</u>	<u>(24,457,930)</u>	<u>(269,000)</u>	<u>(17,810)</u>

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

Restricted General Funds

General Annual Grant - Income from the DfE which is to be used for the normal running costs of the Academy, including education and support costs. Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Academy was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2025.

Other DfE Grants - Other grant income from the DfE, which are used for the purposes intended.

Other Restricted - This fund includes income from local authority grants and any other sources of restricted income.

Restricted Pension Fund

Pension reserve - This represents the Academy's share of the assets and liabilities in the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Restricted Fixed Asset Funds

DfE Capital Grants - These funds were received for direct expenditure on fixed asset projects. The balance at the year-end represents the NBV of assets and any unspent grant amounts.

Fixed Assets - This represents the NBV of fixed assets.

Unrestricted Funds

Are all those income and expenses for general use in the Academy.

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

20. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Total funds analysed by academy:

	31.8.25 £	31.8.24 £
Fund balances at 31 August 2025 were allocated as follows:		
Southfields Academy	11,003,588	10,498,920
Linden Lodge School	626,527	401,284
Total before fixed assets and pension reserve	11,630,115	10,900,204
Restricted Fixed Asset Fund	69,850,499	71,025,161
Pension reserve	-	-
Total	81,480,614	81,925,365

Analysis of academies by cost

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

	Teaching And Educational Support Staff Costs £	Other Support Staff Costs £	Educational Supplies £	Other Costs (excluding) Depreciation £	31.8.25 Total £	31.8.24 Total £
Southfields Academy	8,175,895	2,318,394	203,092	2,494,155	13,191,536	12,751,490
Linden Lodge School	7,278,051	2,453,823	152,191	1,719,772	11,603,837	10,910,549
	15,453,946	4,772,217	355,283	4,213,927	24,795,373	23,662,039
2024	9,697,513	9,035,054	824,132	3,937,340	23,662,039	

Transfers between funds

A transfer between general restricted and restricted fixed asset funds has been made during the year for fixed assets which have been funded by revenue funds.

21. 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 Wandsworth Council Pension Fund. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

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

Contributions amounting to £286,195 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2025 (2024 - £277,104) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

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 and subsequent consultation are:

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £1,896,018 (2024 - £1,696,283).

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

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

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

21. PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS - continued

Local Government Pension Scheme

Local government pension scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2025 was £1,364,000 (2024 - £1,274,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £1,057,000 (2024 - £980,000). and employees' contributions totalled £307,000 (2024 - £294,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 20.40 per cent for employers and 5.5 - 12.5 per cent for employees.

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

LGPS Pension - in surplus

The pension valuation as at 31 August 2025 showed a surplus of £8,461,000 (2024: £4,539,000). Having considered guidance available and acknowledging that the trust would not be entitled to a refund of this amount, the surplus has not been recognised. Therefore the closing valuation has been recognised as nil.

The amounts recognised in the Balance Sheet are as follows:

	Defined benefit pension plans	
	31.8.25	31.8.24
	£	£
Present value of funded obligations	(24,942,000)	(22,485,000)
Fair value of plan assets	24,942,000	22,485,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	-
Present value of unfunded obligations	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Deficit	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net liability	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>

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

	Defined benefit pension plans	
	31.8.25	31.8.24
	£	£
Current service cost	968,000	883,000
Net interest from net defined benefit asset/liability	(881,000)	(1,852,000)
Past service cost	-	-
Administrative costs	(14,000)	(13,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	73,000	(982,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Actual return on plan assets	1,783,000	2,696,000
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Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

21. PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS - continued

Changes in the present value of the defined benefit obligation are as follows:

	Defined benefit pension plans	
	31.8.25 £	31.8.24 £
Opening defined benefit obligation	22,485,000	19,042,000
Current service cost	968,000	883,000
Contributions by employer	307,000	294,000
Interest cost	902,000	844,000
Benefits paid	(676,000)	(514,000)
Remeasurements:		
Actuarial (gains)/losses from changes in demographic assumptions	1,016,000	(37,000)
Actuarial (gains)/losses from changes in financial assumptions	(4,131,000)	515,000
Oblig other remeasurement	4,071,000	1,458,000
	<u>24,942,000</u>	<u>22,485,000</u>

Changes in the fair value of scheme assets are as follows:

	Defined benefit pension plans	
	31.8.25 £	31.8.24 £
Opening fair value of scheme assets	22,485,000	19,042,000
Contributions by employer	1,057,000	980,000
Contributions by scheme participants	307,000	294,000
Expected return	1,783,000	2,696,000
Benefits paid	(676,000)	(514,000)
Assets admin expenses	(14,000)	(13,000)
	<u>24,942,000</u>	<u>22,485,000</u>

The amounts recognised in other recognised gains and losses are as follows:

	Defined benefit pension plans	
	31.8.25 £	31.8.24 £
Actuarial gains/(losses) from changes in demographic assumptions	(1,016,000)	37,000
Actuarial gains/(losses) from changes in financial assumptions	4,131,000	(515,000)
Oblig other remeasurement	(4,071,000)	(1,458,000)
	<u>(956,000)</u>	<u>(1,936,000)</u>

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

21. PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS - continued

The major categories of scheme assets as a percentage of total scheme assets are as follows:

	Defined benefit pension plans	
	31.8.25	31.8.24
Equities	60%	58%
Other bonds	14%	14%
Property	13%	13%
Cash	4%	5%
Multi-asset fund	9%	10%
	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>

Principal actuarial assumptions at the Balance Sheet date (expressed as weighted averages):

	31.8.25	31.8.24
Discount rate	5.95%	5.50%
Future salary increases	3.50%	3.85%
Future pension increases	2.50%	2.85%

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

Retiring today		
Males	22.6	20.7
Females	24.9	23.3
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	24.2	22
Females	26.6	24.7

Sensitivity analysis	31.8.25	31.8.24
	£	£
Discount rate +0.1%	(275,000)	(462,000)
Discount rate -0.1%	282,000	496,000
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	396,000	496,000
Mortality assumption - 1 year decrease	(387,000)	(462,000)
CPI rate +0.1%	279,000	496,000
CPI rate -0.1%	(271,000)	(462,000)

22. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

	31.8.25	31.8.24
	£	£
Contracted but not provided for in the financial statements	-	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

23. LONG-TERM COMMITMENTS, INCLUDING OPERATING LEASES

Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:

	31.8.25	31.8.24
	£	£
Within one year	14,175	20,657
Between one and five years	5,600	30,788
In more than five years	5,250	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	<u>25,025</u>	<u>51,445</u>

24. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

Owing to the nature of the academy trust and the composition of the board of trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the trustees have an interest. The following related party transactions took place in the financial period.

Aspire@Southfields - a incorporated charity which has a common Trustee, W Golinska. J Valin Trustee, CEO and accounting officer of the Southfields Multi Academy Trust, is also the CEO of Apsire@Southfields.

During the year the Academy Trust received income of £211,195 (2024: £131,891) in relation to rental from Aspire@Southfields. At the year end £39,375 (2024: £58,018) was due from Aspire@Southfields.

Nursery@Aspire - a incorporated charity which has a common Trustee, J Valin. S Hayday, member of Southfields Multi Academy Trust until 10.7.2025, is also a trustee of Nursery@Aspire. J Valin Trustee, CEO and accounting officer of the Southfields Multi Academy Trust, is also the CEO of Nursery@Aspire.

During the year the Academy Trust received rental income of £120,000 (2024: £120,000) from Nursery@Aspire. There were no balances outstanding at the year end.

All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook, including notifying ESFA of all transactions made on or after 1 April 2019 and obtaining their approval where required, and with the academy trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures relating to connected and related party transactions.

25. AGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

The academy trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for DfE. In the accounting period ending 31 August 2025 the academy trust received £25,493 (2024: £27,124) and disbursed £24,205 (2024: £30,097) from the fund. As at 31 August 2025, the cumulative unspent 16-19 bursary fund is £2,636 (2024: £1,348) which was held in deferred income at the year end.