

Company registration number 09904025 (England and Wales)

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

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FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members

- Diocesan of Chester	J Hoareau
- Chair of Trustees	C Penn
	C Hampshire (resigned 1 September 2025)
	N J Whittle
	Revd Dr Ian Stockton

Trustees

Dr C Hampshire (Chair of Trustees) (Resigned 1 September 2025)
Rev S Burmester (Resigned 21 March 2025)
D Wooff (Chair of Trustees) (Appointed 2 September 2025)
F Fernandes
J Talcott
S Finlay
D Chapman (Resigned 26 October 2024)
J Connor (Appointed 24 October 2024)
M J Clements-Wheeler (Appointed 12 December 2024)
G Bell (Appointed 12 December 2024)
C Veitch (Appointed 12 December 2024)

Senior management team

- Chief Executive Officer	T Quinn
- Chief Finance & Operating Officer	J Usher (appointed 1 July 2025)
- Chief Finance & Operating Officer	S Finch (resigned 30 June 2025)
- Deputy Chief Executive Officer & Executive Head Teacher	C Green
- Head of School - EPC	J Gatrell (appointed 1 September 2024)
- Principal - HGPS	A Booth
- Principal - BHA	P Masher

Company registration number

09904025 (England and Wales)

Registered office

The Ellesmere Port C Of E College
Whitby Road
Whitby
Ellesmere Port
Merseyside
CH65 6EA

Academies operated

The Ellesmere Port C of E College
Handforth Grange Primary School
Birches Head Academy

Location

Ellesmere Port
Handforth
Stoke on Trent

Principal

J Gatrell
A Booth
P Masher

Independent auditor

Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited
24 Nicholas Street
Chester
CH1 2AU

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Bankers

Lloyds Bank plc
Liverpool Law Courts
2 - 12 Lord Street
Derby Square
Liverpool
Merseyside
L2 1TS

Solicitors

Hill Dickinson LLP
No.1 St. Pauls Square
Liverpool
Merseyside
L3 9SJ

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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

The Frank Field Education Trust is recognised by the Department for Education as a sponsor.

For the 2024/25 academic year, Frank Field Education Trust operated as a Multi Academy Trust with 1 Primary School (3-11) serving the borough of Cheshire East, 1 Secondary School (11-18) serving the town of Ellesmere Port and 1 Secondary School (11-16) serving the City of Stoke. Its academies have a combined pupil capacity of 2,600 and had a roll of 1,974 in the school census in Summer 2025.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The academy trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy trust.

The charitable company operates as Frank Field Education Trust (FFET).

The trustees of Frank Field Education Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. Details of the trustees who served during the year, and to the date these accounts are approved, are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

Members' liability

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

Trustees' indemnities

The trust is a member of the DfE's Risk Protection Arrangement for most of its insurance needs including cover for trustees, governors and officers from claims arising due to negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of trustees

All members of the academy trust are appointed and/or elected in accordance with the Articles of Association of FFET. Consideration is given to skills that would enhance the effectiveness of the trust in line with its articles of association.

During the academic year under review the FFET held 3 main Board meetings, supplemented by sub-committee meetings. These meetings are typically held at each of the Trust's schools.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

All new trustees and governors will be given a tour of the site of the respective academies, they are given an opportunity to meet with the staff and students and are provided with copies of procedures, minutes, accounts, budget plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as trustees. Each year, the trust holds a Trustee Strategy day revisiting the trust vision and business plan.

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Organisational structure

The trustees have overall responsibility and ultimate decision-making authority for all the work of the academies and in order to discharge these responsibilities, appoint people who are more locally based to serve on a board (each being a 'Local Governing Body') which has been established to ensure good governance of the academy trust. The directors have delegated the following functions to the Local Governing Body (LGB) through a formal scheme of delegation:

- Have a monitoring role in connection with the academy;
- Consider budget monitoring information in relation to annual budget proposals and in-year expenditure;
- Govern admissions and appoint a committee to apply admissions criteria in accordance with DES guidance, the admissions code and with due regard to a locally agreed fair access protocols and to appoint the Chair of the LGB and the Principals as proposers in any admissions appeals;
- Govern exclusions in accordance with appropriate regulations;
- Support the Principal in recruitment and selection, grievance, disciplinary and processes in relation to staff where appropriate; and
- Monitor and be accountable for standards and report annually to the Directors (or more frequently if requested).

The trustees delegate the leadership and day to day management of the academy trust to the CEO and delegation of the leadership and day to day management of each school within the trust to the school's Principal supported by the CEO.

Senior Management Teams (listed on page 1) that operate at each academy are responsible for the day-to-day operation of the academies. In particular, are responsible for organising the staff (teaching and non-teaching), facilities and students.

The trustees currently meet 3 times per year with an additional AGM following the submission of the accounts and report relevant decisions for appropriate decisions.

Roles and responsibilities are defined in the Governance Structure and Scheme of Delegation.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

Academy trustees are non-salaried and therefore no pay and remuneration scales are applicable.

The Trust Board continues to refer to School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD) and National Joint Conditions (NJC) for support staff in the appointment of relevant grade and pay range allocations.

In addition, the CEO and CFOO of the trust, whilst not trustees, are deemed to have sufficient influence/control to be key management personnel. Their remuneration is calculated in line with other trusts and using the same appraisal objectives set at the start of the year and outcomes delivered. The annual evaluation of the CEO's performance is carried out by the Chair and Vice Chair.

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

No related parties or other connected charities and organisations have been identified other than those disclosed in Note 23 of the accounts.

Trade Union Facility Time

The academy trust does not have any employees that are Trade Union representatives. The academy trust pays into an LA scheme to pay Trade Union representatives employed elsewhere and providing trade union or public duty services.

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

Frank Field Education Trust was established in 2018 by Frank Field, who was passionate about the role that schools could play in changing people's lives. Our schools are based in the North-West and the West Midlands and we have also developed a community programme working with families and their children ages 0-2.

Our aim has been to establish within our communities:

- an Early Life programme supporting the first 1001 days of a child's life helping parents answer the question that we all struggle with, "how do we give our children the best start in life?".
- primary and secondary schools that have the ambition to become outstanding and therefore ensuring children can have a choice-filled life.

The Trust has established an Early Life Programme in Ellesmere Port in September 2021, working with local primary schools. This innovative programme goes from strength to strength and was most recently short-listed for the TES Community Engagement Award. This programme has been expanded to Handforth Grange Primary School. The programme is funded entirely by donations.

There are three schools within our Trust at present.

The first school to join was an 11-18 secondary school, The Ellesmere Port C of E College (EPC) in December 2018, which was re-brokered from a previous trust and received several Inadequate Ofsted judgements. At its most recent 2023 Ofsted inspection, it was judged to be Good in all categories and overall. In 2023, EPC was shortlisted for the Secondary School of the Year at the Educate Awards.

The second school to join the Trust was our primary school, Handforth Grange, who achieved its second Outstanding judgement in January 2024. Handforth has also been awarded an Educate Award for Inclusive Provision in a Primary School in November 2025

The third school to join the Trust was an 11-16 secondary school in Stoke, Birches Head Academy, who joined the Trust in December 2020.

Frank spent his adult life as the Chair of the Child Poverty Action Group and then as an MP for Birkenhead, on fighting against poverty, and many social ills and injustices in Britain.

Poverty for him, had injustice at its root, and his landmark report, "The Foundation Years: Preventing Poor Children Becoming Poor Adults", commissioned by the Prime Minister, David Cameron described the importance that Education and Early Years Care play in developing children into becoming well-rounded adults. Frank was keen to develop a multi-academy trust that addressed the key issues found in his report, by providing an '0 to 18' education programme that would tackle social injustice in our country.

It is from this that our Trust vision evolved.

Our Purpose: We believe social justice can be achieved for our communities by providing excellence in education.

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Our Culture: We believe that the biggest asset within our Trust is our staff and to deliver social justice we need staff to feel valued and believe they can make a difference. We have created a culture, underpinned by our Trust Values Charter, Teaching Charter and Wellbeing Charter that aims to reflect the values which we use with our young people daily.

Our Charters provide us with the principles which support us in all our decision making. As role models for young people, how we behave is as important as what we do and all staff are expected to live out these values.

We do this through:

- living and breathing our Wellbeing and Values Charters
- insisting that everyone sets a good example in how they behave and that they consciously take steps to reduce levels of stress and anxiety in the organisation
- FFET briefings which share successes and provide clarity of our core purpose
- regular headteacher and senior leader meetings to discuss strategic priorities and share solutions
- aligning our FFET calendar across all areas of school life (e.g. data collections; Monitoring for Achievement Cycles; parents' evenings; Middle Leader and Teacher Development Meetings)
- ensuring all leaders know and understand what it means to lead in our Trust for the benefit of all schools
- supporting leaders at all levels to lead with high expectation and compassion
- providing regular support and guidance from the Trust Executive and Central Team
- our strategy for succession planning which ensures that staff access a Trust-wide professional development offer.

Our Approach: We have created an Excellence in Education Framework that has three key pillars:

- to have outstanding staff in our schools
- to have a curriculum for social justice which delivers cultural capital
- to have effective and supportive systems that enable teachers to teach and children to learn

Our framework is delivered systematically through a Monitoring for Achievement Cycle.

1. Outstanding staff

We are committed to helping all our staff become outstanding practitioners and we have developed a 4 stage approach to professional development that enables all our staff to collaborate within professional learning communities.

All staff contribute to:

- our Professional Development offer which consists of 4 stages, bespoke to each member of staff, depending on where they are on their career journey
- our Teaching Charter which exemplifies what outstanding looks like in our trust and underpins our commitment to high quality collective professional development. This Charter has been written by staff for staff and is designed to map out the culture we expect in our schools
- our Annual Conference which brings staff together to revisit our core purpose, share expertise and develop pedagogy. Each year, we have a keynote theme designed to challenge and stimulate our staff
- staff at all levels being involved in the development and delivery of our key processes (e.g. Consistency Across our Schools, The MFA Cycle, our Professional Learning Communities)
- being outward facing and working with other schools, Trusts and national organisations such as DfE and Voice21
- our Trust Bulletin which shares good practice and celebrates pedagogical excellence
- our FFET networks which facilitate collaboration to identify and align priorities, share skills and evidence of what works while considering the impact on workload
- working collaboratively to identify key areas of development and giving dedicated time within our MFA Cycle to enable staff to flourish.
- our School-Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) Train to Teach offer to develop new staff to our organisation.

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

2. A curriculum for social justice

We believe that improving educational outcomes is the biggest way we can positively impact on our pupils' futures. We have designed a Curriculum for Social Justice that will not only enable pupils to achieve life-changing examination qualifications, but also a set of knowledge, skills and behaviours (cultural capital) that will enable them to lead a choice-filled life guided by a moral compass.

We do this through:

- regular 'curriculum conversations' within and across our schools with senior and middle leaders enabling them to share insight, knowledge, resources and to support and challenge
- curriculum and Pastoral Leaders' Meetings to develop strong relationships within and across our schools to ensure our 'Be More' curriculum is integrated seamlessly with pupils academic learning
- subject Leader meetings to collaboratively design and sequence subject curricular
- FFET Network Meetings for subject leaders to collaborate and share practice
- a FFET Be More Event for every subject, each year for pupils from all FFET schools.
- coaching and mentoring to further develop leaders' expertise and challenge their thinking
- breaking down content into learning cycles which sequences the curriculum, builds on prior learning and fills gaps in knowledge.

3. Effective and supportive systems

We believe that when staff work in an environment where expectations are clear for all then exceptional learning can take place. We have developed a set of robust systems that enables our schools to have a positive, safe, working environment, allowing teachers to teach and pupils to learn.

We have developed:

- a Monitoring for Achievement Cycle (MFA) which outlines how we quality assure and monitor teaching and learning throughout the year The MFA Cycle enables us to signpost the key formative and summative assessment points throughout the year as well as detailing the key opportunities for professional development for our staff. Throughout the year, we use data to identify pastoral and academic priorities and through GAS and AIM meetings ensure that children receive the right support, intervention and encouragement.
- a Behaviour Charter which establishes very clear rules and the way we do things. This ensures staff and children are clear and consistently have high expectations regarding routines and behaviours, encouraging and rewarding good behaviour and ensuring children feel like they belong.
- highly effective pupil support from our Safeguarding, SEND and Behaviour teams who meet regularly, collaborate across our Trust and are outward facing
- regular opportunities for pupils, parents and staff to provide feedback.

After serving as a MP for Birkenhead for over 40 years, Frank became a Lord in 2020, and was appointed Member of Order of the Companions of Honour in the 2022 New Years Honours. He continued his fight to alleviate poverty and injustices until his death in 2024.

Our legacy at FFET, will be to continue this work, and make all of our schools and projects beacons of hope and justice.

Objectives, strategies and activities

The main objectives of the Trust during the period ended 31st August 2025 are summarised below:

- To ensure that every student enjoys the same high-quality education in terms of resourcing, tuition and care.
- To raise the standard of educational achievement of all students.
- To improve the effectiveness of the academy trust by keeping the curriculum and organisational structure under regular review.
- To provide value for money for the funds expended.
- To comply with all appropriate statutory and curriculum requirements.
- To conduct the academy trust's business in accordance with the highest standards of integrity, probity and openness.

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Public benefit

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

The key public benefit delivered by the Frank Field Education Trust is the maintenance and development of the high-quality education provided by the schools.

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

The Frank Field Education Trust is recognised by the Department of Education as a sponsor. This means the Trust has given a commitment to support academies facing all types of challenges, including educational standards and financial viability.

There are three schools currently within the trust. Handforth Grange Primary School continues to have successful outcomes at both KS1 and KS2. Birches Head Academy has an improving trend, although is still not at national standards. Ellesmere Port CofE College exam results are broadly in line with the previous year. Please note that this year's cohort at Ellesmere Port CofE College was reduced to 82, statistically this has an impact on headline figures. Pupils from across the schools participated in a wide range of curriculum and extra-curricular/Be More activities which enabled them to enjoy high quality provision in line with our ethos and aims.

Handforth Grange Primary School:

Handforth Grange Primary School continues to provide excellent educational experiences and outcomes for its pupils in line with its vision of the 'very highest expectations of academic success, behaviour, excitement and fun.' Last year saw the introduction of FFET Be More events for children at Handforth Grange. Children from across school attended events including the Poetry Festival, Art Competition, Chess Competition and the Spanish Extravaganza. The events enabled our children to visit a range of buildings including Staffordshire University, The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery in Hanley and each of the secondary schools within the trust.

Following the successful Ofsted inspection of teaching and our new curriculum in Jan 2024 and the completion of the two-year mixed age curriculum cycle, this year we have been able to focus on key improvement targets within cycle A, highlighted through the diagnostic and a review of the attainment data. Curriculum development has focused on English, Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling, Mathematics and Science with measurable impact. The implementation of the EMILE spelling programme into the curriculum has had a demonstrably positive effect on spelling across the school.

The school continues to be oversubscribed. We received a total of 103 applications for the 45 available Reception places, including 48 first-choice requests. This was particularly pleasing given that it was reported to be a low birth year. The cohort included 12 siblings and 5 children with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), which further reduced the number of places available for children living within the catchment area for the second consecutive year. The furthest distance from which a child qualified for a place within the catchment area was reduced to 0.49 miles. We received one appeal for a Reception place in September, which we were able to accommodate due to a place becoming available in the summer term. This was the result of a previously allocated place being released when a child with an EHCP was offered a more specialist setting. Over the past 12 months, the school has received 47 in-year admission requests. We were able to admit 11 pupils, as places became available due to house moves and changes in school placements.

The schools' achievements for 2024-25:

Results in Statutory Assessments report 2024/2025 These statistics cover the attainment of year 6 pupils who took assessments in summer 2025. Children in KS1 are no longer required to sit statutory assessments at the end of year 2, however the optional SATs were completed to enable leaders to provide a comparison to previous years. Children in y1 and any children who did not pass last year, took the y1 phonics test in June 25. 78% of year 1 passed the test. 50% of the children in y2 who did not pass the test in y1 were disapplied from retaking the test due to their speech and language needs, the remaining 50% (all with EHCPs or SEN support) made progress but did not achieve the pass mark. The impact of the RWI phonics and reading programme continues to be extremely positive. Children continue with the programme into year 3 where appropriate to ensure they can become fluent readers at the earliest opportunity. 20% of the year 2 cohort have SEND/EHCPs including 5 children with EHCPs. This has impacted on this year's KS1 data. Children in year 4 took the statutory Multiplication Tables Check and we are pleased that we continue to see an upward trend in the percentage of children achieving full marks (61% (34%).

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

	2024/2025	2023/2024	2022/2023	2021/2022	2020/2021	2019/2020	2018/2019	2017/2018
EYFS								
Children achieving a Good Level of Development	91%	80% (68.1%)	82% (67.2%)	85%	87%	85% (71.8%)	75%	78%
Children achieving at least expected in all 17 Early Learning Goals	91%	80% (66.6%)	82% (67.2%)	85%	87%	70% (70.7%)		
Y1 Phonics Screening Check								
Children passing the check	78% (80%)	89% (80.3%)	76% (79%)	87% (75%)	93%	93% (82%)	92%	86%
End of KS1 Assessments (KS1 SATs not statutory/No national %)								
Reading at the Expected Level	78%	87% (71%)	89% (69%)	89% (67%)	82%	86% (75%)	88%	93%
Reading at Greater Depth	24%	29% (18.7%)	30%	29%	62%	53% (25%)		
Writing at the Expected Level	76%	86% (61%)	87% (61%)	89% (58%)	82%	84% (69%)	86%	90%
Writing at Greater Depth	2.2%	2% (8.2%)	9%	9%	31%	35% (13%)		
Mathematics at the Expected Level	78%	87% (71%)	94% (72%)	91% (68%)	89%	95% (76%)	91%	93%
Mathematics at Greater Depth	27%	24% (15.5%)	37%	41%	42%	63% (22%)		

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

KS2 SATs								
Reading / Writing & Mathematics combined at the expected level	74% (62%)	70% (60%)	73% (59%)	51% (59%)	90%	80% (65%)	77% (65%)	84% (64%)
Reading / Writing & Mathematics combined at Greater Depth	15%	6% (7.3%)	4% (7%)	12%	28%	38% (11%)	18% (11%)	10% (10%)
Reading at the Expected Level	76% (72%)	77% (73.7%)	87% (73%)	67% (74%)	92%	82% (73%)	77%	87%
Writing at the Expected Level	85% (74%)	89% (71.9%)	87% (71%)	84% (69%)	92%	82% (78%)	100%	90%
Mathematics at the Expected Level	80% (74%)	79% (72.1%)	80% (73%)	67% (71%)	95%	80% (79%)	97%	97%
Reading at Greater Depth	43%	38% (27.8%)	33% (28%)	26%	62%	42% (27%)	32%	
Writing at Greater Depth	20%	17% (12.3%)	9% (13%)	26%	41%	38% (20%)	46%	
Mathematics at Greater Depth	37%	23% (23%)	22% (22%)	21%	49%	60% (27%)	32%	
Reading Progress	N/A	3.0	1.2	-2.3	n/a	4.2	0.6	0.8
Writing Progress	N/A	18.0	0.1	1.8	n/a	3.0	4.6	1.0
Mathematics Progress	N/A	5.0	-1.4	-2.3	n/a	2.4	2.2	2.6

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Key performance indicators

Birches Head Academy

Year 11 Headline Measures Summary:

Our 2025 Year 11 results were our best results since 2019, excluding Covid modified years of CAGS (2020), TAGs (2021) and Modified content (2022). There has been a positive trend in Year 11 outcomes this year.

Attainment 8 has risen to 3.14, showing a small but consistent improvement over the past two years. Progress 8, while still negative at -0.48 (SMID estimate), has improved compared to previous years. The percentage of students achieving Basics (9-4 in English and Maths) increased by 9% to 40%, and Basics (9-5) rose slightly to 17%.

English Attainment 8 scores have increased by half a grade, Maths by a quarter of a grade, and both Ebacc and Open buckets remain broadly in line with last year, with the average Ebacc grade also rising. Gender analysis shows females significantly outperform males in English at both standard and strong pass levels, while males slightly outperform females in Maths; there is no gender gap in combined English and Maths. Both genders enter the Ebacc at similar rates, but females achieve higher outcomes.

For disadvantaged pupils, the gap in English outcomes is narrowing, though Maths remains a concern, particularly for disadvantaged females. The number of disadvantaged pupils entering the Ebacc remains significantly lower, and there is a notable attainment gap in combined English and Maths compared to their peers.

BHA Year 11 Headlines 2025	GCSE results 2018	GCSE results 2019	GCSE results 2022	GCSE results 2023	GCSE results 2024	GCSE results 2025	National 2025
Total Number on Roll	113	122	126	179	209	197	NA
Progress 8/Attainment 8 Measure							
Attainment 8:	36.0	34.0	38.5	31.0	30.0	31.3	45.9
Progress 8:	-0.80	-1.18	-0.52	-0.87	-0.91	NA	NA
Basics - English and Maths Measure							
% Basics (9-5):	20	23	30	15	16	17	45.2
% Basics (9-4):	35	43	51	35	31	39	64.5
Attainment 8 Buckets							
A8 English:	3.60	3.78	4.3	3.40	3.40	3.86	4.9
A8 Maths:	3.40	3.47	3.7	2.90	2.73	2.95	4.6
A8 Ebacc:	3.00	2.70	3.18	2.50	2.73	2.7	4.5
A8 Open:	4.30	3.78	4.3	3.50	3.18	2.2	4.5
Ebacc							
Av Ebacc grade				2.39	2.52	2.64	4.1
% Entering Ebacc				37	44	26	40.5

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

The Ellesmere Port C of E College

Year 11 Headline Measures Summary:

EPC results have shown significant improvement over time with the Attainment 8 score being the highest in the school and predecessor school's history. Results for 2025 are broadly in line with 2024 results.

- EPC results are broadly in line with results from last year.
- Attainment 8 is slightly higher than last year.
- Progress 8 measure will not exist this year, as this is the first of two covid years that did not sit their KS2 SATs.
- Attainment in English and Maths is in line with significant improvements made last year.
- Attainment in Ebacc subjects has dipped this year, results in History and Spanish are key to this drop.
- Attainment in Open subjects has performed significantly better this year, with many of the top performing subjects sitting within this bucket.
- Whilst the Basics (9-5) figure also shows improvement, the grades at the top end are still not high enough.

	GCSE results 2018	GCSE results 2019	GCSE results 2022	GCSE results 2023	GCSE results 2024	GCSE results 2025	National 2025
Total Number on Roll	123	141	110	87	91	82	NA
Progress 8/Attainment 8 Measure							
Attainment 8:	29.34	33.15	36.94	34.16	38.40	38.88	45.9
Progress 8:	-1.24	-0.83	-1.00	-0.68	-0.51	NA	NA
Basics - English and Maths Measure							
% Basics (9-5):	14	18	19	14	23	24	45.2
% Basics (9-4):	29	37	36	37	51	45	64.5
Attainment 8 Buckets							
A8 English:	3.53	3.51	3.63	3.57	4.2	4.1	4.9
A8 Maths:	2.87	3.28	3.08	2.90	3.4	3.4	4.6
A8 Ebacc:	2.92	3.10	3.35	3.05	4.2	3.6	4.5
A8 Open:	2.86	3.42	4.49	4.03	3.6	4.4	4.5
Ebacc							
Ave Ebacc grade	2.58	2.86	2.88	2.79	3.23	3.18	4.1
% Entering Ebacc	54	36	27	64.4	46.2	28.1	40.5

Year 13 Headline Measures Summary:

Average point score broadly in line with last year for both A level and Applied courses.

Average points scores are in line with last year's performance

Qualification Attainment					
A Level	2019	2022	2023	2024	2025
Average Point Score	14.42	22.62	17.5	20.77	20.0
Average Grade	E+	D+	D-	D+	D
Applied General	2019	2022	2023	2024	2025
Average Point Score	25.85	32.2	27.11	27.16	26.88
Average Grade	Merit	Dist-	Merit+	Dist-	Merit+

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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, the board of trustees continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the accounts. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the statement of accounting policies.

Financial review

Most of the trust's income is obtained from the DfE in the form of grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE during the year and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the statements of financial activities. The principal accounting policies adopted during the year are detailed in the notes to the financial statements.

During the year ended 31 August 2025, total expenditure of £16,961,000 (2024: £15,911,000) was fully covered by grant funding from the DfE together with other incoming resources. The excess of income over expenditure (excluding actuarial losses on the defined benefit pension scheme and the fixed asset fund) was £1,057,000 (2024: £1,228,000).

As at the 31 August 2025, the net book value of fixed assets was £18,242,000 (2024: £18,138,000) including the value of the land and building which are leased on a 125-year lease. The assets are used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the academy.

Reserves policy

Trustees review the level of reserves on an annual basis. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments (including future commitments) and the type of reserves. The trust's current level of free reserves, represented by total reserves less the amounts held in fixed assets reserve and restricted pension fund reserve, is a surplus position of £1,806,000 (2024: £1,043,000).

The trust is operating in surplus. An agreed deficit of £480,000 was inherited by the trust as a condition of The Ellesmere Port Church of England College joining the Trust, as part of the re-brokering agreement. This was a substantial element of the deficit the College had built up whilst under the management of the previous sponsor. The trust has repaid this deficit in full.

The academy trust operates a GAG pooling policy.

The trustees have decided to adopt a prudent approach and aim to hold reserves of at least 5% of income. These reserves will help to cover unforeseen business interruptions, assist budgetary pressures over the medium term, provide funds for capital improvements or developments, assist cash flow where payments of the ESFA funding are retrospective and support short-term emergency requirements. This is sound commercial practice designed to safeguard the trust business interests and quality of education at all of its academies.

Investment policy

The academy trust operates an investment policy that seeks to maximise returns, minimise risk and maintain flexibility and access to funds.

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Principal risks and uncertainties

The principal risks to the trust are documented and managed using a risk management policy and a risk register that is regularly reviewed.

The Trust has carried out a careful review of the risks and uncertainties it faces in the forthcoming year.

In summary these are viewed as;

- Potential loss of reputation and community confidence arising from any drop in standards and academic performance leading to falling pupil numbers,
- Budgetary pressures brought about by reduced public sector education spending and funding formula changes,
- Impact of changes to school performance measures in terms of curriculum structures,
- Failure on high profile school-to-school support commissions,
- Downgrading of the current OFSTED report for any FFET academy following inspection under the new toolkit
- Inability to sufficiently increase pupil numbers due to local demographic position for any academies within the trust,
- Sufficiency of accommodation to meet major growth in demand for places,
- Erosion of reserves to balance budgets in the short to medium term,
- Succession planning within trust governance and leadership,
- Cyber security threats across the Trust.

Key controls in place to mitigate these risks include;

- Forensic data and annual examination performance analysis,
- Regular review of annual school improvement plans at all academies of the trust,
- Robust self-evaluation procedures and careful monitoring of teaching and learning with early intervention when required,
- An organisational structure with clearly defined roles, responsibilities and authorisation levels,
- Documented terms of reference and policies for the governance of the trust,
- Financial planning, budgeting and regular financial reporting to governors, sub-committee and detailed scrutiny of financial risk,
- Robust due diligence procedures in place for growth of the Trust through acquisitions.
- Maintenance and regular update of encrypted cloud-based data backup.

Financial and risk management objectives and policies

The trust's financial risks are shown above in Principle Risks and Mitigation.

Fundraising

The academy trust does not use any external fundraisers. All fundraising undertaken during the year was monitored by the trustees.

Streamlined energy and carbon reporting

As the Trust is not classed as a large company as determined by sections 465 and 466 of the Companies Act 2006, it is not required to report on its emissions, energy consumption or energy efficiency activities.

Plans for future periods

In setting our objectives and planning our activities the trustees have given careful consideration to the charity commission's general guidance on public benefit.

The trust will continue to work to raise both the aspirations and outcomes of all its students at whatever age, closing gaps between the performance of different groups, where this is needed, and ensuring that they are able to proceed successfully to the next stage of their education.

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

The academy trust does not hold funds as custodian on behalf of others.

Auditor

Insofar as the trustees are aware:

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

Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited was appointed auditor to the charitable company. A resolution proposing re-appointment will be put to the members.

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 16/12/2025 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
D Wooff

Chair of Trustees

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Scope of responsibility

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

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

The board of trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to 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 Frank Field Education Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. The accounting officer is also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

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

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Dr C Hampshire (Chair of Trustees) (Resigned 1 September 2025)	3	3
Rev S Burmester (Resigned 21 March 2025)	0	1
D Wooff (Chair of Trustees) (Appointed 2 September 2025)	2	3
F Fernandes	0	3
J Talcott	3	3
S Finlay	3	3
D Chapman (Resigned 26 October 2024)	0	0
J Connor (Appointed 24 October 2024)	3	3
M J Clements-Wheeler (Appointed 12 December 2024)	2	2
G Bell (Appointed 12 December 2024)	2	2
C Veitch (Appointed 12 December 2024)	2	2

The main responsibilities and issues dealt with during the year were as follows:

- Review of the initial budget setting
- Regular monitoring of actual income and expenditure against budgets
- Ensuring returns are completed by deadlines
- Capital monitoring
- Authorising personnel changes through the year
- Reviewing the findings of the internal audit reports in particular financial procedures and internal control.

The board proactively looks to recruit trustees who can strengthen the existing structure. The chair of Trustees receives and reviews monthly management accounts, assessing the overall performance of the trust. The trust board receives updates at each meeting from LGB meetings and trust subcommittee meetings.

Conflicts of interest

All trustees complete an annual pecuniary interests form, which is reviewed at the start of each year. Trustees are asked to update the board of any changes throughout the year. This is requested at the start of every meeting. The Trust board complete a skills audit annually, to identify any gaps in knowledge.

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Governance reviews

Frank Field Education Trust reviews its governance continuously throughout the academic year. Our last external review took place in July 2024. Best practice is for this to be completed every 3-years. Our continuous monitoring throughout the year, includes regular agent items at Sub Committees, monitoring visits by the local Governing Bodies and regular review of key documents and policies and robust challenge for senior leaders through Subcommittee meetings.

The Finance, Premises, IT & HR Sub Committee reports to the Board of Trustees. Within the board meetings there is a defined finance agenda and a Chair of finance committee separate to the Chair of trustees.

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
C Hampshire	2	3
D Wooff	3	3
S Finlay	3	3
M Clements-Wheeler	1	2

The Early Life Sub Committee reports to the Board of Trustees and was established to review and evaluate the Trust's Early Life Programme.

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
J Talcott	2	2
C Hampshire	1	2
J Connor	1	2

The Education and Standards Sub Committee reports to the Board of Trustees and was established to review and evaluate teaching and learning; pupils' standards and progress; and teachers' CPD.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
D Wooff (Chair of Trustees) (Appointed 2 September 2025)	3	3
F Fernandes	2	3
J Talcott	2	3
S Finlay	3	3
C Veitch (Appointed 12 December 2024)	2	2

The Risk and Audit Sub Committee reports to the main board of trustees on a termly basis.

The Risk & Audit Sub Committee is authorised to obtain independent professional advice if it considers this necessary. The Risk & Audit Sub Committee physically audit a number of areas on a termly basis, both financial and non-financial and a full annual schedule is prepared and agreed. In attendance was the Accounting Officer and the Chief Finance Officer.

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Dr C Hampshire (Chair of Trustees) (Resigned 1 September 2025)	2	3
D Wooff (Chair of Trustees) (Appointed 2 September 2025)	3	3
J Talcott	2	3
J Connor (Appointed 24 October 2024)	2	2
G Bell (Appointed 12 December 2024)	2	2

Review of value for money

As accounting officer, the CEO has responsibility for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The accounting officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes, 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:

Better Purchasing

Across the Trust, we have, since 2019 procured shared HR, payroll, consultancy, legal, H&S, EVOLVE (safeguarding procedures), Recruitment, Occupational Health, Insurance, Asset Management, TES Develop, IT, Catering and Cleaning to secure better purchasing powers which should provide further joint savings.

Income generation

In 2024 the CFOO obtained a grant for £372,352 from the DfE for CIF funding to enable the urgent replacement of failed central heating distribution system at Handforth Grange Primary School.

Next steps are to explore further the benefits of applying for grants from a variety of sources to further improve the quality of resources for teaching and learning.

Financial Governance

The CFOO ensures compliance with ESFA regulations regarding management of finance and delivering value for money.

Reviewing Controls and Managing Risk

All academies have Business Continuity Plans and Risk Management plans in place, enabling the Trust to make best use of our financial resource.

Lessons Learned

During 2025-26, we will:

- Refine the procurement process to gain maximum service levels and value for money for goods and services.
- Continue to strengthen the collaboration across all of the Trust schools to ensure that all Trust academies are able to deliver good or better provision and outcomes for learners.
- Develop the central team operations and procedures to support the work of the CEO and CFOO.
- Continue to develop ICT across the Trust with a focus on AI and cyber security.

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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 Frank Field Education Trust for the period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts.

Capacity to handle risk

The 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 ongoing 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 accounts. 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, Premises, IT & HR 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; and
- Identification and management of risks.

The board of trustees considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided to appoint DJH Mitten Clarke as internal auditor.

This option was chosen because the trust wanted to ensure transparency, and maintain compliance with regulations and the Academy Trust Handbook.

The internal 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:

- Term 1 – Payroll – 4 February 2025
- Term 2 – Fixed Assets – 18 March 2025
- Term 3 – Capital Projects & Contracts – 6 May 2025

On a termly basis, the reviewer reports to the board of trustees through the Risk and Audit committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the financial responsibilities of the board of trustees. On an annual basis, the reviewer prepares a 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.

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Review of effectiveness

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

- The work of the internal reviewer;
- The financial management and governance self-assessment process or the school resource management self-assessment tool;
- The work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework;
- The work of the external auditor; and
- Correspondence from ESFA, eg 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 Risk and Audit committee and plans to ensure continuous improvement of the system are in place.

Conclusion

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

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 16/12/2025 and signed on its behalf by:



D Wooff
Chair of Trustees



Mr T Quinn
Accounting Officer

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

As accounting officer of Frank Field Education Trust, I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust board of trustees and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement in place between the academy trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2024, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

I confirm that I and the academy trust's 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 terms and conditions of funding under the academy trust's funding agreement and the Academy Trust Handbook 2024.

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



Mr T Quinn
Accounting Officer

16/12/2025.....

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

The trustees (who are also the directors of Frank Field Education Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the accounts in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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

In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to:

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

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 16/12/2025 and signed on its behalf by:



D Wooff
Chair of Trustees

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Opinion

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

In our opinion the accounts:

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

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts' 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 accounts 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 other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the accounts does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the accounts or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the accounts 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 including the incorporated strategic report for the financial year for which the accounts are prepared is consistent with the accounts; and
- the trustees' report including the incorporated strategic report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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, including the incorporated strategic report.

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts 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 accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the accounts, 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 charitable company, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

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

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

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

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- The nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance;
- The schools' own assessment of the risks that irregularities may occur either as a result of fraud or error;
- The results of our enquiries of management and members of the board of governors of their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- Any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the schools' documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
- Identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
- Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; and
- The internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- The matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas:

(i) The presentation of the trust's Statement of Financial Activities, (ii) revenue recognition (iii) the overstatement of salary and other costs (iv) the assumptions used in the calculation of the valuation of the surplus or deficit on the defined benefit pension scheme and the movements for the year. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the UK Companies Act, the Statement of Recommended Practice - 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued by the joint SORP making body, along with the Academy Trust Handbook and Accounts Direction 2024-25 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the academy's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. This includes regulations concerning Data Protection and Safeguarding.

Audit response to risks identified

As a result of performing the above, we identified the presentation of the Trust's Statement of Financial Activities, revenue recognition and overstatement of wages and other costs as the key audit matters related to the potential risk of fraud. The key audit matters section of our report explains the matters in more detail and also describes the specific procedures we performed in response to those key audit matters.

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

In addition to the above, our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations described above as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management and members of the board concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with relevant authorities where matters identified were significant;
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls we carried out testing of the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates were indicative of a potential bias; and evaluated the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

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

Use of our report

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



Jonathan Lucas (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited

17/12/2025

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Accountants
Statutory Auditor

24 Nicholas Street
Chester
CH1 2AU

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 6 February 2023 and further to the requirements of the Department for Education (DfE)) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Frank Field Education Trust during the period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to Frank Field Education 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 the Frank Field Education 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 Frank Field Education Trust and the Secretary of State, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Frank Field Education Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Frank Field Education Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 29 November 2018 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2024, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Approach

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountant of Academy Trusts issued by ESFA. We performed a limited assurance engagement as defined in our engagement letter.

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- Reviewing the activities to ensure they are in keeping with the charitable objectives and framework.
- Reviewing declarations of interest and seeking further representations.
- Reviewing the control environment and considering potential weaknesses.
- Reviewing minutes of various committees, management accounts and holding discussions with key personnel.

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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

Mitchell Charlesworth

Reporting Accountant

Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited
24 Nicholas Street
Chester
CH1 2AU

17/12/2025

Dated:

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £'000	General £'000	Restricted funds: Fixed asset £'000	Total 2025 £'000	Total 2024 £'000
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	-	60	419	479	937
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	2	17,138	-	17,140	15,894
Other trading activities	5	373	1	-	374	306
Investments	6	25	-	-	25	2
Total		400	17,199	419	18,018	17,139
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	9	350	15,924	687	16,961	15,911
Total	7	350	15,924	687	16,961	15,911
Net income/(expenditure)		50	1,275	(268)	1,057	1,228
Transfers between funds	17	-	(274)	274	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	19	-	2,125	-	2,125	562
Adjustment for restriction on pension assets	19	-	(2,413)	-	(2,413)	(2,781)
Net movement in funds		50	713	6	769	(991)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		57	986	18,566	19,609	20,600
Total funds carried forward		107	1,699	18,572	20,378	19,609

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Comparative year information		Unrestricted	Restricted funds:		Total
Year ended 31 August 2024		funds	General	Fixed asset	2024
	Notes	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	-	43	894	937
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	15,894	-	15,894
Other trading activities	5	306	-	-	306
Investments	6	2	-	-	2
Total		308	15,937	894	17,139
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	9	370	14,936	605	15,911
Total	7	370	14,936	605	15,911
Net income/(expenditure)		(62)	1,001	289	1,228
Transfers between funds	17	-	(252)	252	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	19	-	562	-	562
Adjustment for restriction on pension assets	19	-	(2,781)	-	(2,781)
Net movement in funds		(62)	(1,470)	541	(991)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		119	2,456	18,025	20,600
Total funds carried forward		57	986	18,566	19,609

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025

		2025	2024
	Notes	£'000	£'000
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	18,242	18,138
Current assets			
Debtors	14	1,039	1,270
Cash at bank and in hand		2,810	1,739
		3,849	3,009
Current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(1,713)	(1,538)
Net current assets		2,136	1,471
Net assets excluding pension asset		20,378	19,609
Defined benefit pension scheme asset	19	-	-
Total net assets		20,378	19,609
Funds of the academy trust:			
Restricted funds	17		
- Fixed asset funds		18,572	18,566
- Restricted income funds		1,699	986
Total restricted funds		20,271	19,552
Unrestricted income funds	17	107	57
Total funds		20,378	19,609

16/12/2025

The accounts on pages 29 to 54 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on and are signed on their behalf by:



D Wooff

Chair of Trustees

Company registration number 09904025 (England and Wales)

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

		2025		2024	
	Notes	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash provided by operating activities	20		1,560		1,148
Cash flows from investing activities					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		25		2	
Capital grants from DfE Group		331		532	
Capital funding received from sponsors and others		224		-	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(789)		(563)	
Net cash used in investing activities			(209)		(29)
Cash flows from financing activities					
Repayment of long term DfE loan		(280)		(100)	
Net cash used in financing activities			(280)		(100)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			1,071		1,019
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			1,739		720
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year			2,810		1,739

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1 Accounting policies

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

1.1 Basis of preparation

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

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the trust. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £'000.

1.2 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 charitable company to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the accounts 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 accounts.

1.3 Income

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

Grants

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

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

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

Sponsorship income

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

Donations

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

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Other income

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

Donated goods, facilities and services

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

Donated fixed assets

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

Bursary Funding

The academy trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for the ESFA. Funds are received and shown in the balance sheet initially, with amounts released to income as funds are distributed throughout the academic year.

1.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Expenditure on raising funds

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

Charitable activities

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

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the academy trust's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management, trustees' meetings and reimbursed expenses.

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

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

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

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

Leasehold Land & Buildings	2% straight line and 10% straight line
Computer equipment	25% straight line
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	25% straight line

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

1.6 Liabilities

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the academy 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.

1.7 Leased assets

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

1.8 Financial instruments

The academy 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. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

Financial liabilities

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

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

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.9 Taxation

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

1.10 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 and the assets are held separately from those of the academy trust.

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. The TPS is an unfunded multi-employer scheme with no underlying assets to assign between employers. Consequently, the TPS is treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions are recognised in the period to which they relate.

The LGPS is a funded multi-employer scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the academy 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 or expenditure are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the statement of financial activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses. Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses.

1.11 Fund accounting

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

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

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

1.12 PFI Agreement

Birches Head Academy occupies buildings which are utilised by the Academy under a PFI agreement. The Academy pays revenue contributions in respect of the facilities management and buildings use. The contract will expire in the year 2025. The Academy does not have any rights or obligations of ownership in respect of these assets and therefore they are not included on the Academy's balance sheet. The revenue payment is recognised in the SOFA. Where the Academy procures and pays for additional furniture or equipment or changes to the building, the costs are capitalised and depreciated in accordance with the tangible fixed assets policy.

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.13 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.

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

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.

Local Government Pension Scheme

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit asset/liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 19 impact the carrying amount of the pension asset/liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions asset/liability at 31 August 2025. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

FRS 102 section 28.22 allows an entity to recognise a surplus within the Local Government Pension Scheme “only to the extent it is able to recover the surplus either through reduced contributions in the future or through refunds from the plan”. The actuarial report as at 31 August 2024 indicates a defined benefit asset position, which has been capped at nil value. This is on the basis that it is uncertain that a surplus following any triennial review would result in reduced contributions for the employer, and is unlikely to result in a repayment.

Useful economic lives of tangible assets

The annual depreciation charge for tangible assets is sensitive to changes in the estimated useful lives and residual values of the assets. The useful economic lives and residual values are re-assessed annually. They are amended when necessary to reflect current estimates, based on technological advancement, future investments, economic utilisation and the physical condition of the assets.

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2025 £'000	Total 2024 £'000
Donated fixed assets	-	2	2	-
Capital grants	-	417	417	894
Other donations	-	60	60	43
	-	479	479	937

4 Funding for the academy trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2025 £'000	Total 2024 £'000
DfE/ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	13,940	13,940	12,990
Other DfE/ESFA grants:				
- Pupil premium	-	844	844	839
- Teachers Pension Employers Contributions Grant	-	301	301	135
- Core Schools Budget Grant	-	502	502	-
- Others	-	703	703	1,256
	-	16,290	16,290	15,220
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	848	848	674
Other incoming resources	2	-	2	-
Total funding	2	17,138	17,140	15,894

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2025 £'000	Total 2024 £'000
Hire of facilities	87	-	87	78
Catering income	31	-	31	30
Other income	255	1	256	198
	373	1	374	306

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2025 £'000	Total 2024 £'000
Short term deposits	25	-	25	2

7 Expenditure

	Staff costs £'000	Non-pay expenditure Premises £'000	Other £'000	Total 2025 £'000	Total 2024 £'000
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	10,008	515	889	11,412	10,608
- Allocated support costs	2,519	2,009	1,021	5,549	5,303
	12,527	2,524	1,910	16,961	15,911

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Operating lease rentals	744	124
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	687	605
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	18	13
- Other services	5	5
- Unitary PFI payments	618	554
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	(142)	(106)

8 Central services

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

- Human resources co-ordination and casework;
- Financial services via hub managers;
- IT services;
- Facilities and estates via hub managers.

No central services charges were levied by the Academy Trust to its academies during the year to 31st August 2025.

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

9 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2025 £'000	Total 2024 £'000
Direct costs				
Educational operations	350	11,062	11,412	10,608
Support costs				
Educational operations	-	5,549	5,549	5,303
	350	16,611	16,961	15,911
			2025	2024
			£'000	£'000
Analysis of support costs				
Support staff costs			2,528	2,593
Depreciation			172	151
Technology costs			314	285
Premises costs			1,837	1,573
Legal costs			26	31
Other support costs			647	647
Governance costs			25	23
			5,549	5,303

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

10 Staff

Staff costs and employee benefits

Staff costs during the year were:

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Wages and salaries	9,092	8,795
Social security costs	1,035	889
Pension costs	2,080	1,772
Staff costs - employees	12,207	11,456
Agency staff costs	320	348
Staff restructuring costs	-	15
	12,527	11,819
Staff development and other staff costs	37	18
Total staff expenditure	12,564	11,837

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Redundancy payments	-	1
Severance payments	-	14
	-	15

Staff numbers

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

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Teachers	122	127
Administration and support	110	115
Management	3	3
	235	245

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

10 Staff

(Continued)

Higher paid staff

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

	2025 Number	2024 Number
£60,001 - £70,000	14	11
£70,001 - £80,000	4	5
£80,001 - £90,000	6	1
£90,001 - £100,000	1	2
£100,001 - £110,000	1	-
£110,000 - £120,000	1	1
£160,000 - £170,000	-	1
	<u> </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 key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £767,496 (2024: £673,569).

11 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

None of the trustees have been paid remuneration or have received any other benefits from an employment with the academy trust (2024: £nil). Travel expenses amounting to £721 were reimbursed to two trustees during the year (2024: £868 to three trustees for travel expenses and an amount for a trophy).

12 Trustees' and officers' insurance

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

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold Land & Buildings £'000	Capital Improvements £'000	Computer equipment £'000	Fixtures, fittings & equipment £'000	Total £'000
Cost					
At 1 September 2024	22,552	-	2,628	2,117	27,297
Additions	98	602	53	37	790
At 31 August 2025	22,650	602	2,681	2,154	28,087
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2024	4,769	-	2,358	2,032	9,159
Charge for the year	478	60	115	33	686
At 31 August 2025	5,247	60	2,473	2,065	9,845
Net book value					
At 31 August 2025	17,403	542	208	89	18,242
At 31 August 2024	17,783	-	270	85	18,138

14 Debtors

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Trade debtors	13	12
VAT recoverable	233	226
Other debtors	2	63
Prepayments and accrued income	791	969
	1,039	1,270

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Government loans	-	280
Trade creditors	572	419
Other taxation and social security	246	208
Other creditors	427	200
Accruals and deferred income	468	431
	1,713	1,538

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

16 Deferred income

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	251	170
	=====	=====
Deferred income at 1 September 2024	170	103
Released from previous years	(170)	(103)
Resources deferred in the year	251	170
	=====	=====
Deferred income at 31 August 2025	251	170
	=====	=====

At the balance sheet date the academy trust was holding funds of £28,061 (2024: £28,462) in relation to Universal Infant Free School Meals for the academic year beginning September 2025, £186,315 (2024: £128,516) relating to Early Life funding, £25,805 (2024: nil) in relation to Rates reclaims, £2,909 (2024: £1,839) relating to trips and £8,407 (2024: £11,313) in other sundry amounts.

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

17 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2024 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2025 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	986	13,940	(12,953)	(274)	1,699
Pupil premium	-	844	(844)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	1,506	(1,506)	-	-
Other government grants	-	848	(848)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	61	(61)	-	-
Pension reserve	-	-	288	(288)	-
	<u>986</u>	<u>17,199</u>	<u>(15,924)</u>	<u>(562)</u>	<u>1,699</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE group capital grants	18,164	417	(644)	-	17,937
Capital expenditure from GAG	402	-	(43)	274	633
Private sector capital sponsorship	-	2	-	-	2
	<u>18,566</u>	<u>419</u>	<u>(687)</u>	<u>274</u>	<u>18,572</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>19,552</u>	<u>17,618</u>	<u>(16,611)</u>	<u>(288)</u>	<u>20,271</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	57	400	(350)	-	107
	<u>57</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>(350)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>107</u>
Total funds	<u>19,609</u>	<u>18,018</u>	<u>(16,961)</u>	<u>(288)</u>	<u>20,378</u>

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

Restricted general funds are those resources that have been designated by the grant provider in meeting the objectives of the academy.

Restricted fixed asset funds are those funds relating to the long term fixed assets of the academy used in delivering the objectives of the academy.

Unrestricted funds are those which the trustees may use in the pursuance of the academy's objectives and are expendable at the discretion of the trustees.

Transfer of funds from General Annual Grant restricted general funds to restricted fixed asset funds are to fund assets for which no capital grant was received.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the academy trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward as at 31st August 2025.

The academy trust operates GAG & Reserve Pooling.

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

17 Funds

(Continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2024 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	481	12,990	(12,233)	(252)	986
Pupil premium	-	839	(839)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	1,391	(1,391)	-	-
Other government grants	-	674	(674)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	43	(43)	-	-
Pension reserve	1,975	-	244	(2,219)	-
	<u>2,456</u>	<u>15,937</u>	<u>(14,936)</u>	<u>(2,471)</u>	<u>986</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE group capital grants	17,803	894	(533)	-	18,164
Capital expenditure from GAG	222	-	(72)	252	402
	<u>18,025</u>	<u>894</u>	<u>(605)</u>	<u>252</u>	<u>18,566</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>20,481</u>	<u>16,831</u>	<u>(15,541)</u>	<u>(2,219)</u>	<u>19,552</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	119	308	(370)	-	57
	<u>119</u>	<u>308</u>	<u>(370)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>57</u>
Total funds	<u>20,600</u>	<u>17,139</u>	<u>(15,911)</u>	<u>(2,219)</u>	<u>19,609</u>

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

17 Funds (Continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2025 were allocated as follows:		
The Ellesmere Port C of E College	-	-
Handforth Grange Primary School	-	-
Birches Head Academy	-	-
Central services	1,806	1,043
Total before fixed assets fund and pension reserve	1,806	1,043
Restricted fixed asset fund	18,572	18,566
Pension reserve	-	-
Total funds	20,378	19,609

The Trust has operated GAG pooling since 1st September 2023.

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff £'000	Other support staff costs £'000	Educational supplies £'000	Other costs excluding depreciation £'000	Total 2025 £'000	Total 2024 £'000
The Ellesmere Port C of E College	3,680	748	286	933	5,647	5,224
Handforth Grange Primary School	1,436	293	139	288	2,156	2,061
Birches Head Academy	4,428	1,257	406	1,481	7,572	7,135
Central services	464	454	58	211	1,187	1,133
	10,008	2,752	889	2,914	16,563	15,553

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	General £'000	Restricted funds: Fixed asset £'000	Total Funds £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2025 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	18,242	18,242
Current assets	338	3,064	447	3,849
Current liabilities	(231)	(1,365)	(117)	(1,713)
Total net assets	107	1,699	18,572	20,378
Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	18,138	18,138
Current assets	71	2,289	649	3,009
Current liabilities	(14)	(1,303)	(221)	(1,538)
Total net assets	57	986	18,566	19,609

19 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 Cheshire Pension Fund and Staffordshire 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 that of the LGPS related to the period ended 31 March 2022.

Contributions amounting to £322,781 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2025 (2024: £191,577) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

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

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

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

19 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £1,559,737 (2024: £1,284,763).

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 18.25-24.2% for employers and 5.5-12.5% for employees.

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

Total contributions made	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Employer's contributions	536	549
Employees' contributions	149	151
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total contributions	685	700
	<hr/>	<hr/>

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

19 Pension and similar obligations	(Continued)	
Principal actuarial assumptions	2025	2024
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	2.70	2.65
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	3.30	3.25
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	6.08	5.00
	=====	=====
The current mortality assumptions include sufficient allowance for future improvements in mortality rates. The assumed life expectations on retirement age 65 are:		
	2025	2024
	Years	Years
Retiring today		
- Males	19.2	19.0
- Females	23.9	23.8
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	20.9	20.7
- Females	24.6	24.6
	=====	=====
Sensitivity analysis		
Scheme liabilities would have been affected by changes in assumptions as follows:		
	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
0.1% decrease in Real Discount Rate	177	214
1 year increase in member life expectancy	326	374
0.1% increase in the Pension Increase Rate (CPI)	178	214
0.1% increase in salary	4	6
	=====	=====
Defined benefit pension scheme net asset	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
Scheme assets	13,341	12,114
Scheme obligations	(8,147)	(9,333)
	=====	=====
Net asset	5,194	2,781
Restriction on scheme assets	(5,194)	(2,781)
	=====	=====
Total liability recognised	-	-
	=====	=====

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

19 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

The academy trust's share of the assets in the scheme	2025 Fair value £'000	2024 Fair value £'000
Equities	7,477	6,790
Bonds	4,152	3,796
Cash	172	155
Property	1,540	1,373
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total market value of assets	13,341	12,114
Restriction on scheme assets	(5,194)	(2,781)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net assets recognised	8,147	9,333
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The actual return on scheme assets was £695,000 (2024: £1,098,000).

Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Current service cost	390	411
Interest income	(618)	(558)
Interest cost	476	452
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total amount recognised	248	305
	<hr/>	<hr/>

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

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
At 1 September 2024	9,333	8,484
Current service cost	390	411
Interest cost	476	452
Employee contributions	149	151
Actuarial gain	(2,048)	(22)
Benefits paid	(153)	(143)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 August 2025	8,147	9,333
	<hr/>	<hr/>

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

19	Pension and similar obligations		(Continued)	
	Changes in the fair value of the academy trust's share of scheme assets		2025	2024
			£'000	£'000
	At 1 September 2024		12,114	10,459
	Interest income		618	558
	Actuarial gain		77	540
	Employer contributions		536	549
	Employee contributions		149	151
	Benefits paid		(153)	(143)
	At 31 August 2025		13,341	12,114
	Restriction on scheme assets		(5,194)	(2,781)
	Net assets recognised		8,147	9,333
20	Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities		2025	2024
		Notes	£'000	£'000
	Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		1,057	1,228
	Adjusted for:			
	Capital grants from DfE and other capital income		(419)	(894)
	Investment income receivable	6	(25)	(2)
	Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	19	(146)	(138)
	Defined benefit pension scheme finance income	19	(142)	(106)
	Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		687	605
	Decrease in debtors		93	57
	Increase in creditors		455	398
	Net cash provided by operating activities		1,560	1,148
21	Analysis of changes in net funds			
		1 September 2024	Cash flows	31 August 2025
		£'000	£'000	£'000
	Cash	1,739	1,071	2,810
	Loans falling due within one year	(280)	280	-
		1,459	1,351	2,810

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

22 Long-term commitments

Operating leases

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

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Amounts due within one year	151	127
Amounts due in two and five years	153	238
	<u>304</u>	<u>365</u>

Other contractual commitments

At 31 August 2025 the total of the academy trust's future minimum lease payments under other contractual commitments was:

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Amounts due within one year	227	630
Amounts due in two and five years	-	683
	<u>227</u>	<u>1,313</u>

The other contractual commitments relate to the future PFI liability for Birches Head Academy.

On conversion to an academy trust, the PFI properties were transferred from Stoke City Council to the school via a donation. No liability arose as a result of this transaction as Stoke City Council retained ultimate responsibility for the outstanding capital finance. However, a financial commitment existed for the schools in the form of PFI quarterly charges until 25th October 2025 when the PFI contract ended.

23 Capital commitments

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Expenditure contracted for but not provided in the accounts	75	-
	<u>75</u>	<u>-</u>

The capital commitments value represents the balance of the cost of a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) to be built at Handforth Grange Primary School. A deposit of £25,000 was paid in the year ended 31st August 2025.

The PFI contract at Birches Head Academy ends on 27th October 2025 and the Land & Buildings will therefore be included in the balance sheet in the year ended 31st August 2026.

FRANK FIELD EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

24 Related party transactions

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

In addition to certain trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 11 the trust paid fees of £1,160 (2024: £1,400) to the Chester Diocesan Board of Education, in which a member of the trust was Company Secretary, in respect of membership fees and support services.

25 Members' liability

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

26 Agency arrangements

The academy trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for the ESFA. In the accounting period 31 August 2025 the trust received £6,591 (2024: £12,433) and disbursed £9,874 (2024: £13,455) from the fund, with the balance carried forward totalling £2,119 (2024: £1,164).