

Registration number: 07697698

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Thompson Jenner LLP
Statutory Auditors
28 Alexandra Terrace
Exmouth
Devon
EX8 1BD

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

Contents

Reference and administrative details	1 to 2
Trustees' report	3 to 11
Governance statement	12 to 16
Statement of regularity, propriety and compliance	17
Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities	18
Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Chulmleigh Academy Trust	19 to 22
Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Chulmleigh Academy Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency	23 to 24
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2025 (including Income and Expenditure Account)	25 to 26
Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2025	27
Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2025	28
Notes to the Financial Statements	29 to 52

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

Reference and administrative details

Members	S Baber S Phillips Revd. T Rockey EDEN representative (S Marshall) B E Down
Trustees (Directors)	R T Algar (resigned 22 September 2024) S C Baber (Chair of Trustees) C Chandler (appointed 20 November 2024) A A Elston (resigned 14 October 2024) K A Greenwood M E Johnson (resigned 31 August 2025, accounting officer) E Mayo (resigned 05 September 2025) N Payne (appointed 1 September 2025, accounting officer) S Saxby (appointed 20 November 2024) N Sedgwick L N Smith M J White N J Willis D J Worden
Company Secretary	C Fallow
Senior Management Team	M E Johnson, Executive Headteacher (resigned 31 August 2025) N Payne, Secondary Deputy Executive Headteacher (appointed Executive Headteacher 1 September 2025) C Fallow, Estates Manager C A Harrison, Business Manager S Healey, Primary Deputy Executive Headteacher M Evely, Head of School (CPS) S Pinn, Head of School (EWS) J Wright, Head of School (LPS) L Miller Marshall, Academy SENDCo
Principal and Registered Office	Chulmleigh Community College Chulmleigh Devon EX18 7AA
Company Registration Number	07697698

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

Reference and administrative details (continued)

Auditors Thompson Jenner LLP
Statutory Auditors
28 Alexandra Terrace
Exmouth
Devon
EX8 1BD

Bankers Lloyds Bank plc

Solicitors Michelmores LLP

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

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

In 2024/25 the Trust operates academies for pupils aged 9 months to 16 in Chulmleigh and surrounding areas. The Trust comprises of three primary schools and one secondary school. It has a pupil capacity of 1135 and had a roll of 1036 in the school census in October 2024.

From September 2021, the Trust has lowered the age range of the three primary schools: Chulmleigh Primary, East Worlington Primary and Lapford Community Primary to 2-11 years. East Worlington extended its nursery provision on January 2025 to take under two-year-olds.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution

The Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the Academy Trust. The Trustees of Chulmleigh Academy Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company operates as Chulmleigh Academy Trust.

Details of the Trustees who served during the year, and the date to which 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

Trustees benefit from indemnity insurance purchased at the Academy Trust's expense to cover the liability of the Trustees which by virtue of any rule of law would otherwise attach to them in respect of any negligence, default or breach of trust or breach of duty of which they may be guilty in relation to the Academy Trust, provided that any such insurance shall not extend to any claim arising from any act or omission which the Trustees knew to be a breach of trust or breach of duty or which was committed by the Trustees in reckless disregard to whether it was a breach of trust or breach of duty or not and provided also that any such insurance shall not extend to the costs of any unsuccessful defence to a criminal prosecution brought against the Trustees in their capacity as Directors of the Academy Trust. The limit of this indemnity is £5,000,000.

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

On incorporation, the first Trustees of the newly formed Academy were appointed for a term of four years from the date of incorporation.

Since May 2022, the Trust holds 'Majority Church Articles'. The Academy's Board of Trustees comprises the Executive Headteacher (who is the Chief Executive Officer), seven Foundation Trustees, two Member Appointed Trustees, and one Co-opted Trustee. In addition, the Secretary of State has the right under certain circumstances to appoint further Trustees as provided for in the Articles of Association.

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

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

The Academy Trust shall have no fewer than five Trustees, including the following Trustees as set out in its Articles of Association and funding agreement:

- The Chief Executive Officer may be appointed to act as a Trustee by the members if he or she agrees so to act
- A minimum of two Trustees shall be appointed by the members
- A minimum of two parent Trustees shall be elected (or appointed as the case may be), unless Local Governing Bodies are established and provision made for parent local governors on each Local Governing Body.
- A minimum of three Trustees appointed by the Exeter Diocesan Education Network (EDEN)

Trustees are appointed for a four-year period, except that this time limit does not apply to the Chief Executive Officer. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Trustee, any Trustee can be re-appointed or re-elected.

When appointing new Trustees, the Board will give consideration to the skills and experience mix of existing Trustees in order to ensure that the Board has the necessary skills to contribute fully to the Academy's development.

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees

The Academy has an Induction and Development of Directors policy available from the Company Secretary.

The training and induction provided for new Trustees will depend upon their existing experience but would always include a tour of the Academy and a chance to meet staff and pupils. All Trustees are provided with copies of those policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as Trustees. Induction tends to be done informally (but in accordance with the Induction and Development of Directors policy) and is tailored specifically to the individual. New Trustees are also encouraged to attend relevant training course for new governors.

There is a Trustees' Away Day organised each year which includes training sessions to keep the Trustees updated on relevant developments impacting on their roles and responsibilities.

Organisational Structure

The Board of Trustees meets at least four times a year. The Board establishes an overall framework for the governance of the Academy and determines membership, terms of reference and procedures of Committees and other groups. It receives reports including policies from its Committees for ratification. It monitors the activities of the Committees through the minutes of their meetings. The Board may from time to time establish Working Groups to perform specific tasks over a limited timescale.

In this period there were four main committees as follows;

- **Business & Finance Committee** - this met at least once a term and is responsible for monitoring, evaluating and reviewing policy and performance in relation to financial management, compliance with reporting and regulatory requirements, receiving reports from the internal auditors and drafting the annual budget including setting staffing levels. The committee also deals with personnel matters, and will monitor, evaluate and review Academy policy, practice and performance in relation to Personnel and staffing issues. The committee also deals with premises and facilities issues, including Health and Safety matters and ICT.

- **Performance Boards** – one for the Secondary Phase, and one for the Primary Phase. These meet at least once a term to monitor, evaluate and review Academy policy, practice and performance in relation to curriculum planning, communications, target setting and assessment, examinations and all pastoral issues. These serve as local governing bodies of the Trust.

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

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

- **Audit Committee** – this committee was formed to deal with any necessary audit. The Audit Committee consists of four directors, all of whom will also be members of the Business & Finance Committee. Audit and Business & Finance business occurs simultaneously and is recorded within the Business & Finance Committee meetings, which occurred four times during the year on 13th November 2024, 29th January 2025, 30th April 2025 and 25th June 2025, to receive and review the internal audit reports. The annual financial statements were discussed and recommended to the Board of Directors for approval at the meeting 13th November 2024.

In addition, committees are formed on an ad hoc basis where required to cover other matters such as Exclusions.

The following decisions are reserved to the Board of Trustees: to consider any proposals for changes to the status or constitution of the Academy and its committee structure, to appoint or remove the Chairman and/or Vice Chairman, to appoint the Executive Headteacher.

The Trustees are responsible for setting general policy, approving the Academy Improvement Plan and budget, approving the statutory accounts, monitoring the Academy by the use of budgets and other data, and making major decisions about the direction of the Academy, capital expenditure and senior staff appointments.

The members and Board of Trustees have devolved responsibility for day-to-day management of the Academy to the Executive Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team (SLT). In 2024/25 the SLT comprised of the Executive Headteacher, Secondary Deputy Executive Headteacher, Primary Deputy Executive Headteacher, Academy SENDCO, Estates Manager, Business Manager, and 3 Heads of Primary Schools.

The SLT controls the Academy at an executive operational level, implementing the policies laid down by the Trustees and reporting back to them.

Some spending control is devolved to Budget Holders, who are authorised in line with the Scheme of Delegation. The Executive Headteacher is responsible for the appointment of staff.

The Academy Trust comprises of three primary schools and one secondary school during this period. Each school is an Academy in its own right forming part of the chain of academies within the Academy Trust, with a single Board of Directors overseeing the whole academy chain.

The Executive Headteacher is the Accounting Officer.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The Trustees set the pay and remuneration of key management personnel considering benchmarking data.

Trade union facility time

There was one employee (1.0 FTE) who were a relevant union official during the period. There was no time spent on facility time during this period.

Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

In addition to the three primary schools within the Academy, the Academy has strong collaborative links with five further feeder primary schools. Links have also been formed with primary schools outside the transport area to facilitate transition.

Set up in 2015, CAT Preschools Ltd was a Director run company, incorporating East Worlington Preschool, Chulmleigh Preschool and Lapford Preschool. From September 2021, the primary schools have extended the age range to 2-11 years and therefore incorporate the three preschools, and CAT Preschools Ltd was wound up in April 2023.

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

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

There are no related parties which either control or significantly influence the decisions and operations of Chulmleigh Academy Trust. The Academy encourages strong communication links between the various parent and community forum groups which are linked to individual schools. The Primary Performance Board, which includes parent members, meets every term.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objects and Aims

The principal object and activity of the Academy is to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing a chain of schools offering a broad range of curriculum for pupils of different abilities.

The Trust's designated catchment area covers 210 square miles, which includes Witheridge, Morchard Bishop, High Bickington, Winkleigh and Kings Nympton. However, Chulmleigh College also attracts pupils from outside its designated catchment area, due to parental choice. Therefore, pupils are admitted from areas such as Crediton, North Tawton, Okehampton, Great Torrington, Beaford, Dolton, Barnstaple, Tiverton and South Molton. The Trust complies with the School Admissions Code and the oversubscription criteria can be found on the Trust's website.

The aims of the Academy during the year ended 31 August 2025 are summarised below:

- to provide an outstanding education for each child in the Academy Trust.
- to provide a broad and balanced curriculum, including extra-curricular activities.
- to develop pupils as more effective learners.
- to enhance the tertiary provision and outcomes.
- to develop the Academy sites so that they enable pupils to achieve their full potential.
- to ensure that every child enjoys fair access to a high-quality education in terms of resourcing, tuition and care.
- to improve the effectiveness and sustainability of the Academy by keeping the curriculum and organisational structure under continual review.
- to maximise the number of pupils who achieve 5 GCSE grades (9-5) including English and Maths.
- to provide value for money for the funds expended.
- to develop greater coherence, clarity, and effectiveness in school systems.
- to comply with all appropriate statutory and curriculum requirements.
- to develop the Academy's capacity to manage change, and
- to conduct the Academy's business in accordance with the highest standards of integrity, probity, and openness.

At Chulmleigh Academy Trust, we aim to get the best for, and from, each child. We intend to enable each child to realise his or her full academic, creative, and physical potential and to develop positive social and moral values. Our Academy is a community in which children, staff and parents are part of an environment where high aspiration and standards are achieved as the result of the exemplary practice from the professionals in each of the schools.

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

Key priorities for the year are contained in our Academy Improvement Plan, which is available from the Company Secretary at the College.

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

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

Next year the priorities will be based around:

- Continuing to make the quality of teaching and learning our number one priority and remaining agile in order to give pupils the very best learning opportunities.
- Maintaining the momentum
- Ensuring that our stated values of compassion, ambition and teamwork inform everything we do and that financial resilience informs our planning.
- Maintain our position in the secondary school, getting some of the best results in the region
- Continue with a particular focus on the most disadvantaged pupils.
- Take opportunities to use our resources flexibly, in the best interests of the children and in a way that makes best use of our freedoms as a group of academy schools.
- Spread the outstanding practice within the schools.
- Increase pupil numbers in the primary schools
- Prepare for Ofsted.

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit in exercising their powers or duties. They have referred to this guidance when reviewing the Academy's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities.

The Academy aims to advance for the public benefit education in Chulmleigh and the surrounding areas. In particular, but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, by estimating, maintaining, managing, and developing schools, offering a broad curriculum for all.

The Academy provides facilities for recreational and other leisure time occupation for the community at large in the interests of social welfare and with the interest of improving the life of the said community.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievements and Performance

The Academy is in its 14th year of operation.

Attendance has been a concern nationally, particularly in secondary schools, and we have put much effort into improving attendance. Attendance in all the schools is some way above average.

Chulmleigh Community College 2024/25

GCSE Results 2025

GCSE Results were consistent with outcomes in 2024, which placed Chulmleigh College in the top 3% of schools nationally.

Ebacc Entry – 87%

Ebacc Average Point Score (APS) 5.24

Good Pass in Basics (Grade 5+) 61%

Standard Pass in Basics (Grade 4+) 84%

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

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

Attainment 8 – 54

Progress 8 – n/a

Chulmleigh Academy Trust Primary Schools 2024/25

In all three schools' children achieving a good level of development at the end of Reception was either in line or above national averages:

Chulmleigh Primary School: 68%, East Worlington Primary School: 83%, Lapford Primary School: 100% (National average: 68%)

Year 1 phonics results were well above national at both Chulmleigh and Lapford primary schools: 84% at Chulmleigh and 100% at Lapford (National average: 80%). There was only one child in Year 1 at EWS and this child did not reach the expected standard.

At the end of Year 6 in 2025, all three primary schools performed well in reading: Chulmleigh Primary school: 77%, East Worlington: 67% and Lapford: 89% (National average: 75%) Grammar punctuation and spelling: CPS: 74%, EWS: 67%, Lapford: 67% (National average: 73%) Maths: CPS: 72%, EWS: 50%, Lapford: 56% (National average: 74%) Writing: CPS: 45%, EWS: 67%, Lapford: 67% (National average: 72%).

Key Performance Indicators

The main financial performance indicator is the level of reserves held at the Balance Sheet date. In particular, the management of spending against General Annual Grant (GAG) requires special attention. In the period under review, the restricted fund balance of £525,823 was carried forward representing 8% of GAG.

Going Concern

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

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial Review

Most of the Academy's income is obtained from the DfE via the ESFA in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE during the year ended 31 August 2025 and the associated expenditure are shown as Restricted Funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Academy also receives grants for fixed assets from the DfE which are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the Fixed Asset Fund. The Restricted Fixed Asset Fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the useful life of the assets concerned, as defined in the Academy's accounting policies.

During the year ended 31 August 2025, total expenditure (excluding restricted fixed assets funds and pensions reserves) of £8,188,457 was covered by recurrent grant funding from the DfE, together with other incoming resources totalling £8,489,960. The excess of income over expenditure for the year excluding restricted fixed asset funds, pension reserves and transfers to Restricted Fixed Asset funds was £301,503.

At 31 August 2025 the net book value of fixed assets was £12,187,722 and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the Academy.

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

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

The balance of the former school's budget shares was transferred across on conversion and is shown as Unrestricted Funds.

The Academy has taken on the deficit in the Local Government Pension Scheme in respect of its non-teaching staff transferred on conversion. The scheme is now showing a surplus position however this is not recognised in accordance with accounting standards. Scheme movements in the year are incorporated within the Statement of Financial Activity with details in Note 24 to the financial statements.

Key financial policies adopted or reviewed during the year include the Finance Policy which lays out the framework for financial management, including financial responsibilities of the Board, Executive Headteacher, managers, budget holders and other staff, as well as delegated authority for spending. Other key policies such as, GDPR, Equality & Accessibility, Health & Safety, and Charging & Remissions policies were reviewed and updated.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees review the reserve levels of the Academy annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The Trustees take into consideration the future plans of the Academy, the uncertainty over future income streams and other key risks identified during the risk review, including 3-year budgets, projecting funding income and expenditure.

The Trustees have determined that the appropriate level of free cash reserves should be 5% of total income. The reason for this is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance. The Academy's current level of reserves (total funds less restricted fixed asset funds and pension reserve) is £1,402,231, of which £876,408 is free reserves.

The defined benefit pension scheme reserve is now showing a surplus position. The effect of the historical deficit position of the pension scheme is that the Academy Trust is paying higher employers' pension contributions over a period of years. The higher employers' pension contributions will be met from the Academy Trust's budgeted annual income.

Investment Policy

All funds surplus to immediate requirements may be invested in accordance with the Academy's Investment Policy Statement.

Due to the nature of funding, the Academy may at times hold cash balances surplus to its short-term requirements. The Trustees have authorised the opening of additional short term bank investment accounts or invested in individual fixed income securities such as Certificates of Deposit, UK Treasury Bonds, and other similar instruments with an average duration of less than one year to take advantage of higher interest rates. No other form of investment is authorised.

Trustees are committed to ensuring that all funds under their control are managed in such a way as to maximise return whilst minimising risk. Any investment shall therefore be with providers covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. Day to day management of the surplus funds is delegated to the Executive Headteacher and Business Manager in accordance with the Academy's Investment Policy Statement.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the major risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks.

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

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

The principal risks and uncertainties facing the Academy are as follows:

Financial - the Academy has considerable reliance on continued Government funding through the ESFA. In the last year virtually all of the Academy's incoming resources were ultimately Government funded. More than 85% of funding is based on pupil numbers, and there is no assurance that Government policy or practice will remain the same or that public funding will continue at the same levels or on the same terms.

Local Government Pension Scheme – the Board of Trustees recognises that the defined benefit pension scheme deficit represents a significant potential liability. However, as the Trustees consider that the Academy trust is able to meet its known annual contribution commitments for the foreseeable future, the risk from this liability is minimised.

Pupil Numbers - Funding where over 85% is dependent on pupil numbers with limited protection for small schools is a risk for the Trust. The College remains very popular but sparsity results in an insufficient number of pupils from the designated transport area. This risk has been reviewed, and the Trust has taken the decision to invest in the provision of transport option for families outside the designated transport area.

Failures in governance and/or management - the risk in this area arises from potential failure to effectively manage the Academy's finances, internal controls, compliance with regulations and legislation, statutory returns, etc. The Trustees continue to review and ensure that appropriate measures are in place to mitigate these risks.

Reputational - the continuing success of the Academy is dependent on continuing to attract pupils in sufficient numbers by maintaining the highest educational standards. To mitigate this risk Trustees, ensure that pupil success and achievement are closely monitored and reviewed.

Safeguarding and child protection - the Trustees continue to ensure that the highest standards are maintained in the areas of selection and monitoring of staff, the operation of child protection policies and procedures, health and safety and discipline.

Staffing - the success of the Academy is reliant on the quality of its staff and so the Trustees monitor and review policies and procedures to ensure continued development and training of staff as well as ensuring there is clear succession planning.

Fraud and mismanagement of funds - The Academy has appointed an internal auditor to carry out checks on financial systems and records as required by the Academy Financial Handbook. All finance staff receive training to keep them up to date with financial practice requirements and develop their skills in this area.

Trust estate – The Trust's responsibilities to ensure the estate is safe, well maintained and complies with the relevant regulations is supported by each of the schools receiving Health and Safety and Facilities management reviews by an external provider.

The Academy has continued to strengthen its risk management process throughout the year by improving the process and ensuring staff awareness. A risk register is maintained and reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

FUNDRAISING

The fundraising at the Trust has been under the auspices of the Parent and Teacher Associations at each of the schools.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

The Academy will continue to strive to provide outstanding education and improve the levels of performance of its pupils at all levels. The Academy will continue to aim to attract high quality teachers and support staff in order to deliver its objectives.

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

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

The Academy will continue to work with primary schools from the designated transport area, as well as those outside it, to improve the educational opportunities for pupils in the wider community.

Full details of our plans for the future are given in our Academy Improvement Plan, which is available from the Company Secretary.

FUNDS HELD AS CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF OTHERS

The Academy and its Trustees do not act as the Custodian Trustees of any other charity.

AUDITOR

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

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

The trustees' report, incorporating a Strategic Report, was approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees, as company directors on 8/12/25 and signed on its behalf by:



S C Baber

Trustee

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

Governance statement

Scope of Responsibility

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

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

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

Governance

Apart from the annual Away Day, all meetings of the Board of Trustees and the sub-committees met virtually during 2024-2025 to allow for greater attendance, ensuring responsibilities were met.

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 met seven times during the year, with four Board meetings, one incorporating the Away Day meeting, and three extraordinary meetings. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Stephen Baber (Chair of Trustees)	7	7
Keith Greenwood	3	7
Michael Johnson (resigned 31.08.25)	6	7
Lisa Smith	3	7
Nicola Willis	6	7
Martin White	7	7
Emily Mayo (resigned 05.09.25)	2	7
David Worden	6	7
Nigel Sedgewick	5	7
Christine Chandler (joined 20.11.24)	2	5
Selaine Saxby (joined 20.11.24)	3	5
Angela Eaton (resigned 14.10.2024)	1	1
Rosalind Algar (resigned 22.09.2024)	0	0

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

Governance statement (continued)

Governance review

The Board of Trustees carried out a self-evaluation of their effectiveness at the Away Day in the Summer Term of 2024. Directors completed an effectiveness survey in 2025, with results reviewed at the Away Day in July 2025. The results indicated a good level and breadth of skills among the trustees, bringing a wide range of experience and expertise across many different areas. This helped to inform a training programme for certain areas in which some directors felt they would like to develop their skills.

The Trust manages conflicts of interest by maintaining an up to date register of interests that is electronically stored.

The **Business & Finance Committee** is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. The committee met regularly to consider the matters within its remit, including budgetary and financial matters.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Steve Baber	4	4
Keith Greenwood (Chair of Committee)	3	4
Michael Johnson	4	4
Selaine Saxby	2	3
Nigel Sedgwick	4	4

The **Audit Committee** is also a sub-committee of the main board of Trustees. Membership consists of four directors, all of whom will also be members of the Business & Finance Committee. Audit and Business & Finance business occurs simultaneously and is recorded within the Business & Finance Committee meeting. Internal audit reports are received and reviewed, and annual financial statements are recommended to the Board of Directors. There was no requirement to convene any subsequent audit meetings.

The **Secondary Performance Board** is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. The committee met termly to consider the matters within its remit, namely standards across the secondary phase.

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Steve Baber	3	3
Lisa Smith (Chair of Committee)	2	3
Martin White	3	3
Michael Johnson	3	3
David Worden	2	3

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

Governance statement (continued)

The **Primary Performance Board** is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. The committee met termly to consider the matters within its remit, namely standards across the primary phase.

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Steve Baber	4	4
Nicky Willis (Chair of Committee)	4	4
Christine Chandler	2	3
Emily Mayo	1	4
Michael Johnson	3	4

Review of Value for Money

The Accounting Officer is responsible 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. The following are key examples:

Opportunities to make savings have been considered whenever possible, and the reserves at the end of 2024/25 showed an increase of £260k Making a total reserves between the unrestricted and restricted general funds of £1,402k.

Achieving best value from the funds available continues to be a constant focus. A best value exercise was conducted in a number of areas, as follows:

Grounds

A tender process was conducted for grounds maintenance during 2024/25 through the ESPO framework. All 7 contractors on the framework who provide services to the Devon area were invited to tender.

Energy Contract

The energy contract was reviewed in 2024/25 making savings across the Trust of £24k for a two year contract.

General

Quotes were also obtained for a repair of a drystone wall at East Worlington.

In addition, to ensure the Trust's estate is safe, well maintained and complies with regulations the Trust buys in external services for Health and Safety Management and Facilities Management reviews from Devon County Council.

The funds deficit at Lapford Primary School has been agreed because the Trustees are assured that the school has the capacity to grow. There continues to be a deficit at the end of 2024/25.

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

Governance statement (continued)

The financial pressures facing the Trust have been reported and considered. The Trustees will explore strategic opportunities to work with other schools and Trusts, both to share expertise and to strengthen the financial viability of the Trust.

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 Chulmleigh Academy Trust for the period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to Handle Risk

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

The Risk and Control Framework

The Academy Trust's system of internal 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 monthly financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Board of Trustees.
- regular reviews by the Business and Finance committee of reports, which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes.
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance.
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines.
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties.
- identification and management of risks.

The Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided to appoint Griffin Chartered Accountants as the internal auditor.

The Trust's internal scrutiny arrangements are separate to the external auditor's requirements and therefore meet the requirements of the newly revised FRC Ethical Standard for auditors.

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

Governance statement (continued)

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

- *Regularity*
- *Governance*
- *Risk Management*
- *Purchases*
- *Income*
- *Financial budgeting and monitoring*

Three times a year the internal auditor reports to the Board of Trustees, through the audit and risk committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities. On an annual basis the internal auditor prepares an annual summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

The Trustees confirm that the internal auditor has delivered their schedule of work as planned.

There have been no material control issues identified as a result of the internal auditor's work.

Review of Effectiveness

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

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

Conclusion

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 8/12/25 and signed on its behalf by:



S C Baber (Chair of Trustees)
Trustee

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

Statement of regularity, propriety and compliance

As accounting officer of Chulmleigh Academy Trust, I confirm that I have had due regard to the framework of authorities governing regularity, propriety and compliance, including the trust's funding agreement with DfE, and the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2024, including responsibilities for estates safety and management. I have also considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust board of trustees and DfE of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management.

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

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


N Payne, Trustee
Accounting officer

Date: 08/12/25

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

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

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

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

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board on 8/12/25 and signed on its behalf by:



S C Baber (Chair of Trustees)
Trustee

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Chulmleigh Academy Trust

Opinion

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

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

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

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Chulmleigh Academy Trust (continued)

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities [set out on page 18], the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor Responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit.

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

The extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities including fraud

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

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Chulmleigh Academy Trust (continued)

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the academy through discussions with trustees and other management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the academy sector;
we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the academy, including the Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011, The Academies Accounts Direction, the Academy Trust Handbook, The Equality Act, The Data Protection Act in addition to various employment, environmental, fire safety, health and safety and safeguarding legislation;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management, reviewing licenses, certificates and relevant correspondence including the inspection of legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

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

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

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

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

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

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- reviewing correspondence with HMRC, relevant regulators and the company's legal advisors.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

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

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Chulmleigh Academy Trust (continued)

Use of our report

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

Thompson Jenner LLP

David Tucker (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of Thompson Jenner LLP, Statutory Auditor

28 Alexandra Terrace
Exmouth
Devon
EX8 1BD

Date: 11/12/25

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Chulmleigh Academy Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 28 October 2025 and further to the requirements of the Department for Education (DfE) as included in the extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether anything has come to our attention that would suggest, in all material respects, the expenditure disbursed and income received by Chulmleigh Academy Trust during the period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 have not been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of the accounting officer of Chulmleigh Academy Trust and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of the board of trustees' funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 1 August 2011 and the Academy Trust Handbook for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Approach

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion have been designed to comply with the requirements set out in the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 and includes:

- Inspection and review of documentation providing evidence of governance procedures
- Evaluation of the systems of internal controls for authorisation and approval
- Performing substantive tests on relevant transactions

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Chulmleigh Academy Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (continued)

Conclusion

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


.....

David Tucker

For and on behalf of Thompson Jenner LLP, Chartered Accountants

28 Alexandra Terrace

Exmouth

Devon

EX8 1BD

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

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

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

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Total 2025 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	2	-	16,319	58,352	74,671
Other trading activities	4	21,800	-	-	21,800
Investments	5	14,829	-	-	14,829
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Funding for the Academy trust's educational operations	3	<u>378,108</u>	<u>8,058,904</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,437,012</u>
Total		414,737	8,075,223	58,352	8,548,312
Expenditure on:					
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Academy trust educational operations	7	<u>330,890</u>	<u>7,834,567</u>	<u>363,990</u>	<u>8,529,447</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		83,847	240,656	(305,638)	18,865
Transfers between funds		-	(41,099)	41,099	-
Other recognised gains and losses					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	24	<u>-</u>	<u>272,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>272,000</u>
Net movement in funds/(deficit)		83,847	471,557	(264,539)	290,865
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward at 1 September 2024		<u>792,561</u>	<u>54,266</u>	<u>12,452,262</u>	<u>13,299,089</u>
Total funds carried forward at 31 August 2025		<u>876,408</u>	<u>525,823</u>	<u>12,187,723</u>	<u>13,589,954</u>

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

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

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Total 2024 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	2	-	10,122	35,320	45,442
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Funding for the Academy trust's educational operations	3	411,230	7,618,660	-	8,029,890
Other trading activities	4	29,358	-	-	29,358
Investments	5	7,954	-	-	7,954
Total		448,542	7,628,782	35,320	8,112,644
Expenditure on:					
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Academy trust educational operations	7	365,655	7,659,935	369,504	8,395,094
Net income/(expenditure)		82,887	(31,153)	(334,184)	(282,450)
Transfers between funds		-	(72,421)	72,421	-
Other recognised gains and losses					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	24	-	162,000	-	162,000
Net movement in funds/(deficit)		82,887	58,426	(261,763)	(120,450)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds/(deficit) brought forward at 1 September 2023		709,674	(4,160)	12,714,025	13,419,539
Total funds carried forward at 31 August 2024		792,561	54,266	12,452,262	13,299,089

Chulmleigh Academy Trust
(Registration number: 97698)
Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	12,187,722	12,447,536
Current assets			
Stocks	13	21,355	21,355
Debtors	14	357,280	182,701
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>1,605,536</u>	<u>1,410,877</u>
		1,984,171	1,614,933
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year		<u>(581,939)</u>	<u>(468,380)</u>
Net current assets		<u>1,402,232</u>	<u>1,146,553</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>13,589,954</u>	<u>13,594,089</u>
Net assets excluding pension asset		13,589,954	13,594,089
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	24	<u>-</u>	<u>(295,000)</u>
Total net assets		<u><u>13,589,954</u></u>	<u><u>13,299,089</u></u>
Funds of the Academy:			
Restricted funds			
Restricted general fund	16	525,823	349,266
Restricted fixed asset fund	16	12,187,723	12,452,262
Pension reserve	16	<u>-</u>	<u>(295,000)</u>
		12,713,546	12,506,528
Unrestricted funds			
Unrestricted general fund	16	<u>876,408</u>	<u>792,561</u>
Total funds		<u><u>13,589,954</u></u>	<u><u>13,299,089</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 25 to 52 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 31/12/25 and signed on their behalf by:


S C Baber (Chair of Trustees)
Trustee

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	19	225,654	(71,691)
Cash flows from investing activities	20	<u>(30,995)</u>	<u>(64,464)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		194,659	(136,155)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September		<u>1,410,877</u>	<u>1,547,032</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August	21	<u>1,605,536</u>	<u>1,410,877</u>

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

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

1 Accounting policies

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

Basis of preparation

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

Going concern

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

Income

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

Grants

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

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the period is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

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

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.

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

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

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Donations

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

Other income

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

Donated goods, facilities and services

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

Donated fixed assets

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

Expenditure

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Expenditure on raising funds

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

Charitable activities

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

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

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

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Tangible fixed assets

Assets costing £250 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than freehold land and assets under construction, at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line or reducing balance basis over its expected useful lives, per the table below.

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

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

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Long term leasehold property	2% straight line
Long term leasehold land	Straight line over the period of the lease
Motor vehicles	25% reducing balance
Furniture and equipment	20% straight line
Computer equipment	33% straight line

Liabilities

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

Provisions

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

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

Leased assets

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

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

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

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Financial Instruments

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 14. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Amounts due to the charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in notes 15. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument. Amounts due to charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

Stock

Unsold uniforms and catering stocks are valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

Taxation

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

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

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

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

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Pension benefits

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the Academy Trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. TPS is an unfunded multi-employer scheme with no underlying assets to assign between employers. Consequently, the TPS is treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

The LGPS is a funded multi-employer scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the Academy Trust in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability is also recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

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

Fund accounting

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

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

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

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

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

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 24, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 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.

Critical areas of judgement

The Trustees do not believe that the asset value of the Local Government Pension Scheme provided by the actuary can be recovered, either through reduced contributions in the future, or through refunds in the scheme, the asset has therefore been restricted to £nil as detailed in note 24.

2 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Restricted fixed asset funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Capital grants			57,797	57,797	35,320
Other donations		16,319	555	16,874	10,122
		<u>16,319</u>	<u>58,352</u>	<u>74,671</u>	<u>45,442</u>

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

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

3 Funding for the academy trust's charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Educational operations				
DfE/ESFA revenue grants				
General annual grant	-	6,437,269	6,437,269	6,064,016
Pupil premium grant	-	281,764	281,764	272,026
Teachers pension grant	-	132,523	132,523	55,219
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	189,947	189,947	103,997
Mainstream schools additional grant	-	-	-	206,771
Teachers pay grant	-	107,870	107,870	106,755
Core schools budget grant	-	229,145	229,145	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>7,378,518</u>	<u>7,378,518</u>	<u>6,808,784</u>
Other government grants				
High needs	-	224,075	224,075	183,097
Other government grants non capital	-	36,757	36,757	52,499
Nursery income	-	165,996	165,996	144,298
	<u>-</u>	<u>426,828</u>	<u>426,828</u>	<u>379,894</u>
Non-government grants and other income				
Internal catering income	330,878	-	330,878	365,572
Sales to students	43,885	155,907	199,792	181,020
Other	3,345	-	3,345	4,273
Educational trips and visits	<u>-</u>	<u>97,651</u>	<u>97,651</u>	<u>228,160</u>
	378,108	253,558	631,666	779,025
Covid-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)				
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>62,187</u>
Total grants	<u>378,108</u>	<u>8,058,904</u>	<u>8,437,012</u>	<u>8,029,890</u>

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

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

4 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Hire of facilities	8,043	-	8,043	10,926
Other sales	13,757	-	13,757	18,432
	<u>21,800</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>21,800</u>	<u>29,358</u>

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Short term deposits	14,829	-	14,829	7,954

6 Expenditure

	Non Pay Expenditure			2025	2024
	Staff costs	Premises	Other costs	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Academy trust's educational operations					
Direct costs	5,539,028	294,832	540,534	6,374,394	6,153,160
Allocated support costs	968,154	431,392	755,507	2,155,053	2,241,934
	<u>6,507,182</u>	<u>726,224</u>	<u>1,296,041</u>	<u>8,529,447</u>	<u>8,395,094</u>

Net expenditure for the year includes:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Operating leases - other leases	10,221	9,382
Depreciation	363,990	369,504
Fees payable to auditor - audit	7,500	7,500
- other audit services	<u>3,770</u>	<u>4,530</u>

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

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

7 Charitable activities

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Direct costs - educational operations	6,374,394	6,153,160
Support costs - educational operations	<u>2,155,053</u>	<u>2,241,934</u>
	<u>8,529,447</u>	<u>8,395,094</u>
	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Analysis of support costs - educational operations		
Support staff costs	968,154	957,260
Depreciation	69,158	70,206
Technology costs	152,850	146,369
Premises costs	362,234	439,784
Other support costs	583,117	608,868
Governance costs	<u>19,540</u>	<u>19,447</u>
Total support costs	<u>2,155,053</u>	<u>2,241,934</u>

8 Staff

Staff costs and employee benefits

	2025 £	2024 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	4,715,472	4,565,992
Social security costs	504,364	430,907
Pension costs	<u>1,178,355</u>	<u>1,034,916</u>
	6,398,191	6,031,815
Agency staff costs	<u>108,991</u>	<u>81,904</u>
	<u>6,507,182</u>	<u>6,113,719</u>

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

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

8 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	2024
	No	No
£60,001 - £70,000	4	4
£70,001 - £80,000	1	1
£80,001 - £90,000	1	-
£90,001 - £100,000	-	1
£100,001 - £110,000	1	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>6</u>

Staff numbers

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

	2025	2024
	No	No
Teachers	63	60
Administration and support	82	84
Management	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>
	<u>155</u>	<u>155</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 £853,463 (2024: £844,187).

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

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

9 Central services

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

- Human resources
- Financial services
- Legal and professional services
- Educational support services
- Catering services

The trust charges for these services on the following basis:

Central costs are split between academies on a percentage based on pupil numbers and High Needs distribution:

- Chulmleigh Community College - 70%
- Chulmleigh Primary School - 20%
- East Worlington Primary School - 4%
- Lapford Primary School - 6%

Catering costs are split on the following percentages based on pupil numbers:

- Chulmleigh Community College - 70%
- Chulmleigh Primary School - 20%
- East Worlington Primary School - 4%
- Lapford Primary School - 6%

10 Related party transactions - trustees' remuneration and expenses

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

M E Johnson (Executive Headteacher and trustee):

Remuneration: £100,000 - £105,000 (2024 - £95,000 - £100,000)

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

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out in note 25.

11 Trustees' and officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice the Academy has purchased insurance to protect governors and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £5,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2025 was £414 (2024 - £431).

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

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

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

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold land and buildings £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 September 2024	15,688,462	735,912	595,604	25,470	17,045,448
Additions	56,200	16,167	31,809		104,176
At 31 August 2025	15,744,662	752,079	627,413	25,470	17,149,624
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2024	3,344,267	676,251	552,992	24,402	4,597,912
Charge for the year	295,476	25,199	43,041	274	363,990
At 31 August 2025	3,639,743	701,450	596,033	24,676	4,961,902
Net book value					
At 31 August 2025	12,104,919	50,629	31,380	794	12,187,722
At 31 August 2024	12,344,195	59,661	42,612	1,068	12,447,536

13 Stock

	2025 £	2024 £
Books and stationery	17,900	17,900
Catering	3,455	3,455
	<u>21,355</u>	<u>21,355</u>

14 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	8,990	6,709
Prepayments and accrued income	273,491	151,917
VAT recoverable	11,625	24,075
Other debtors	63,174	
	<u>357,280</u>	<u>182,701</u>

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

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

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	56,813	42,236
Other taxation and social security	119,842	92,289
Other creditors	2,783	1,650
Accruals	76,062	96,629
Deferred income	191,686	110,711
Pension scheme creditor	134,753	124,865
	<u>581,939</u>	<u>468,380</u>
	2025	2024
	£	£

Deferred income

Deferred income at 1 September 2024	110,711	176,732
Resources deferred in the period	191,686	110,711
Amounts released from previous periods	<u>(110,711)</u>	<u>(176,732)</u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2025	<u>191,686</u>	<u>110,711</u>

At the balance sheet date the Academy was holding funds recieved in advance in relation to grant income, school transport income and trip income.

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

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

16 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2025 £
Restricted general funds					
General annual grant (GAG)	522,576	6,027,557	(5,829,262)	(27,341)	693,530
General annual grant (GAG) - Lapford Primary School	(173,310)	409,712	(390,351)	(13,758)	(167,707)
Other government grants	-	202,753	(202,753)	-	-
Other DfE/EFA grants	-	189,947	(189,947)	-	-
Core schools budget grant	-	229,145	(229,145)	-	-
Pupil premium grant	-	281,764	(281,764)	-	-
Teachers pension grant	-	132,523	(132,523)	-	-
Teachers pay additional grant	-	107,870	(107,870)	-	-
High needs	-	224,075	(224,075)	-	-
Other	-	155,907	(155,907)	-	-
Donations	-	16,319	(16,319)	-	-
Educational trips and visits	-	97,651	(97,651)	-	-
	<u>349,266</u>	<u>8,075,223</u>	<u>(7,857,567)</u>	<u>(41,099)</u>	<u>525,823</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Fixed asset transferred on conversion	6,466,327	-	(149,523)	-	6,316,804
Fixed asset purchased from GAG	442,446	-	(34,607)	41,099	448,938
DfE/EFA capital grants	166,818	32,072	(41,275)	-	157,615
Maintenance fund grant	5,087,115	-	(127,084)	-	4,960,031
Other restricted asset fund	47,556	26,280	(6,001)	-	67,835
Local authority asset transfer	<u>242,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(5,500)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>236,500</u>
	12,452,262	58,352	(363,990)	41,099	12,187,723
Pension reserve funds					
Pension reserve	<u>(295,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>23,000</u>	<u>272,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Total restricted funds	12,506,528	8,133,575	(8,198,557)	272,000	12,713,546
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>792,561</u>	<u>414,737</u>	<u>(330,890)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>876,408</u>
Total funds	<u>13,299,089</u>	<u>8,548,312</u>	<u>(8,529,447)</u>	<u>272,000</u>	<u>13,589,954</u>

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

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

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

16 Funds (continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
Restricted general funds					
General annual grant (GAG)	635,165	5,576,619	(5,616,787)	(72,421)	522,576
General annual grant (GAG) - Lapford Primary School	(162,325)	448,536	(459,521)	-	(173,310)
Other government grants	-	196,797	(196,797)	-	-
Other DfE/EFA grants	-	142,858	(142,858)	-	-
Pupil premium grant	-	272,026	(272,026)	-	-
Teachers pension grant	-	55,219	(55,219)	-	-
Mainstream schools additional grant	-	206,771	(206,771)	-	-
Teachers pay additional grant	-	106,755	(106,755)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	62,187	(62,187)	-	-
High needs	-	183,097	(183,097)	-	-
Other	-	139,635	(139,635)	-	-
Donations	-	10,122	(10,122)	-	-
Educational trips and visits	-	228,160	(228,160)	-	-
	<u>472,840</u>	<u>7,628,782</u>	<u>(7,679,935)</u>	<u>(72,421)</u>	<u>349,266</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Fixed asset transferred on conversion	6,615,850	-	(149,523)	-	6,466,327
Fixed asset purchased from GAG	415,010	-	(44,985)	72,421	442,446
DfE/EFA capital grants	170,284	31,835	(35,301)	-	166,818
Maintenance fund grant	5,214,199	-	(127,084)	-	5,087,115
Other restricted asset fund	51,182	3,485	(7,111)	-	47,556
Local authority asset transfer	<u>247,500</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(5,500)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>242,000</u>
	12,714,025	35,320	(369,504)	72,421	12,452,262
Pension reserve funds					
Pension reserve	<u>(477,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>162,000</u>	<u>(295,000)</u>
Total restricted funds	12,709,865	7,664,102	(8,029,439)	162,000	12,506,528
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>709,674</u>	<u>448,542</u>	<u>(365,655)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>792,561</u>
Total funds	<u>13,419,539</u>	<u>8,112,644</u>	<u>(8,395,094)</u>	<u>162,000</u>	<u>13,299,089</u>

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

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

16 Funds (continued)

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

Restricted Funds

General Annual Grant - Income from the DfE which is to be used for the normal running costs of the Academy, including education and support costs.

Pupil Premium - This represents funds received from the DfE to support those students from low income families who need the most in order to raise attainment.

Core Schools Budget Grant - This represents funds received from the DfE to provide support for the overall costs of the Academy.

Mainstream Schools Additional Grant - This represents funds received from the DfE to support with the normal running costs of the Academy.

Teachers' Pension Grant - This represents funding received from the DfE to support schools with the cost of the increase in employers contributions to the teachers' pension scheme.

Teachers' Pay Additional Grant - This represents funding received from the DfE to support schools with the cost of the increase in teachers' pay.

Other DfE/ESFA Grants - This represents other various income received from the DfE/ESFA with restrictions.

Other Government Grants - This represents other various income received with restrictions.

High Needs - This is money received from the DfE via the Local Authority to support individual students with particular needs.

Other Restricted Donations - This represents general donations to be used for the normal running of the Academy, including education and support costs and educational trip income.

Educational trips and visits - This represents funds provided by parents and carers to support the expenditure associated with curricular and extra-curricular trips and visits.

Pension Reserve - This represents the Academy's share of the assets and liabilities in the Local Government Pension Scheme. As with most pension schemes this is currently in deficit due to an excess of scheme liabilities over scheme assets which was inherited on conversion to an academy. The Academy is following the recommendations of the actuary to reduce the deficit by making additional contributions over a number of years.

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

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

16 Funds (continued)

Restricted Fixed Asset Funds

Fixed Assets Transferred on Conversion - This represents the building and equipment donated to the school from the Local Authority on conversion to an Academy.

Fixed Asset Purchased from GAG - This represents funds transferred from the restricted GAG fund to purchase fixed assets.

DfE/ESFA Capital Grants - These funds were received for direct expenditure on fixed asset projects. The balance at the yearend represents the net book value of the fixed assets in addition to any unspent grant amounts.

Maintenance Fund Grant - This represents funds that were received for the construction and maintenance of school assets.

Other Restricted Asset Fund - This represents various other funds that were received for the specific purpose of purchasing and maintaining fixed assets.

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2025 were allocated as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Chulmleigh Community College	1,108,105	790,399
Chulmleigh Primary School	351,234	384,168
East Worlington Primary School	106,752	114,182
Lapford Primary School	<u>(163,860)</u>	<u>(146,922)</u>
Total before fixed assets and pension reserve	1,402,231	1,141,827
Restricted fixed asset fund	12,187,723	12,452,262
Pension reserve	<u>-</u>	<u>(295,000)</u>
Total	<u><u>13,589,954</u></u>	<u><u>13,299,089</u></u>

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

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

16 Funds (continued)

Lapford Primary School is carrying a net deficit of £163,860 on these funds because:

Lapford Primary School is carrying a deficit because when it joined the Academy Trust it was in a deficit position with standards that needed to be addressed.

The trust is taking the following action to return the academy to surplus:

Lapford Community Primary School joined the Trust in 2012 with a deficit reserves position and a pupil roll which had been falling because confidence in the school was low. Standards were poor, but following a restructure and a sustained programme of interventions, confidence has grown and the number on roll is steadily rising. Changing the perceptions of families can be a slow process and confidence in the school was not entirely evident until 2015.

The school is situated in a comparatively large village (for North Devon) where rurality and distance to any centres for support, results in a high level of social deprivation. The school is therefore a vital part of this community, fulfilling the needs that are not otherwise available.

The numbers on roll at Lapford preschool rose significantly due to the school's good reputation, consequently a third class was put in place from September 2016 to split the Year R and Year 1.

The Trust made the decision to invest its reserves to return Lapford Community Primary School to a surplus position.

Analysis of academies by cost

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

	Teaching and Educational Support Staff Costs £	Other Support Staff Costs £	Educational Supplies £	Other Costs (excluding Depreciation) £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Chulmleigh Community College	3,807,407	726,252	62,090	1,155,341	5,751,090	5,700,105
Chulmleigh Primary School	939,978	140,261	13,583	231,857	1,325,679	1,219,651
East Worlington Primary School	365,848	62,796	5,881	77,854	512,379	468,287
Lapford Primary School	425,795	71,845	9,946	91,723	599,309	657,547
Central services		(33,000)	-	10,000	(23,000)	(20,000)
Academy Trust	<u>5,539,028</u>	<u>968,154</u>	<u>91,500</u>	<u>1,566,775</u>	<u>8,165,457</u>	<u>8,025,590</u>

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

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

16 Funds (continued)

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs (excluding depreciation) £	Total 2024 £
Chulmleigh Community College	3,486,088	743,158	71,109	1,399,750	5,700,105
Chulmleigh Primary School	878,966	123,030	16,231	201,424	1,219,651
East Worlington Primary School	322,002	59,407	4,549	82,329	468,287
Lapford Primary School	469,403	70,665	7,256	110,223	657,547
Central services	-	(39,000)	-	19,000	(20,000)
Academy Trust	<u>5,156,459</u>	<u>957,260</u>	<u>99,145</u>	<u>1,812,726</u>	<u>8,025,590</u>

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2025 are represented by:

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Total Funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	12,187,722	12,187,722
Current assets	876,408	1,107,762	1	1,984,171
Current liabilities	-	(581,939)	-	(581,939)
Total net assets	<u>876,408</u>	<u>525,823</u>	<u>12,187,723</u>	<u>13,589,954</u>

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

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Total Funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	12,447,536	12,447,536
Current assets	792,561	817,646	4,726	1,614,933
Current liabilities	-	(468,380)	-	(468,380)
Pension scheme liability	-	(295,000)	-	(295,000)
Total net assets	<u>792,561</u>	<u>54,266</u>	<u>12,452,262</u>	<u>13,299,089</u>

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

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

18 Long-term commitments, including operating leases

Operating leases

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

	2025	2024
	£	£
Amounts due within one year	10,222	10,222
Amounts due between one and five years	5,111	15,333
	<u>15,333</u>	<u>25,555</u>

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

	2025	2024
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure)	18,865	(282,450)
Depreciation	363,990	369,504
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(58,352)	(35,320)
Interest receivable	(14,829)	(7,954)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	(33,000)	(39,000)
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	10,000	19,000
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(174,579)	49,895
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	113,559	(145,366)
Net cash provided by/(used in) Operating Activities	<u>225,654</u>	<u>(71,691)</u>

20 Cash flows from investing activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	14,829	7,954
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(104,176)	(107,738)
Capital grants from DfE/EFA	32,072	34,686
Capital funding received from sponsors and others	26,280	634
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(30,995)</u>	<u>(64,464)</u>

21 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2025	2024
	£	£
Cash in hand and at bank	<u>1,605,536</u>	<u>1,410,877</u>
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>1,605,536</u>	<u>1,410,877</u>

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

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

22 Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2024 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2025 £
Cash	<u>1,410,877</u>	<u>194,659</u>	<u>1,605,536</u>
Total	<u>1,410,877</u>	<u>194,659</u>	<u>1,605,536</u>

23 Member liability

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

24 Pension and similar obligations

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

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

Contributions amounting to £134,753 (2024 - £124,865) were payable to the schemes at 31 August and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

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

24 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

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

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £849,692 (2024: £733,240). A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website.

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

Local government pension scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2025 was £450,000 (2024 - £428,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £358,000 (2024 - £339,000) and employees' contributions totalled £92,000 (2024 - £89,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 22.9 per cent for employers and between 5.5 and 12.5 per cent for employees.

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

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2025	2024
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.50	3.80
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.50	2.80
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	6.00	5.10
Inflation assumptions (CPI)	<u>2.50</u>	<u>2.80</u>

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

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

24 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

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

	2025	2024
Retiring today		
Males retiring today	21.30	21.40
Females retiring today	24.00	22.70
Retiring in 20 years		
Males retiring in 20 years	22.90	22.70
Females retiring in 20 years	<u>25.70</u>	<u>24.10</u>
Sensitivity analysis		
	At 31 August 2025 £'000	At 31 August 2024 £'000
Discount rate +0.1%	(83)	(102)
Discount rate -0.1%	84	104
Mortality assumption – 1 year increase	128	166
Mortality assumption – 1 year decrease	(125)	(162)
CPI rate +0.1%	84	101
CPI rate -0.1%	(82)	(98)
Salary increases +0.1%	3	6
Salary increases -0.1%	<u>(3)</u>	<u>(6)</u>

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

	At 31 August 2025 £	At 31 August 2024 £
Equities	3,211,000	3,078,000
Gilts	247,000	-
Target return portfolio	-	130,000
Other bonds	1,408,000	1,303,000
Property	471,000	416,000
Cash and other liquid assets	162,000	141,000
Infrastructure and alternative assets	<u>603,000</u>	<u>584,000</u>
Total market value of assets	<u>6,102,000</u>	<u>5,652,000</u>

The actual return on scheme assets was £429,000 (2024 - £599,000).

The LGPS has reported a surplus of £825,000 as at 31 August 2025. As there is uncertainty regarding the recoverability of the surplus, recognition of the surplus on the balance sheet has been restricted to £nil by adjusting the actuarial gain.

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

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

24 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Current service cost	325,000	300,000
Net interest cost	6,000	16,000
Administration expenses	4,000	3,000
Total operating charge	<u>335,000</u>	<u>319,000</u>

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

	2025	2024
	£	£
At start of period	(5,947,000)	(5,238,000)
Current service cost	(325,000)	(300,000)
Interest cost	(292,000)	(279,000)
Employee contributions	(92,000)	(89,000)
Actuarial gain/(loss)	954,000	(174,000)
Benefits paid	425,000	133,000
At 31 August	<u>(5,277,000)</u>	<u>(5,947,000)</u>

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

	2025	2024
	£	£
At 1 September	5,652,000	4,761,000
Interest income	282,000	260,000
Actuarial gains	143,000	336,000
Employer contributions	358,000	339,000
Employee contributions	92,000	89,000
Benefits paid	(425,000)	(133,000)
At 31 August	<u>6,102,000</u>	<u>5,652,000</u>

25 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.

Other

L Johnson, spouse of M E Johnson, a trustee, is employed by the academy trust. L Johnson's appointment was made in open competition and M E Johnson was not involved in the decision making process regarding appointment. L Johnson is paid within the normal pay scale for her role and receives no special treatment as a result of her relationship to a trustee.

J Payne, spouse of N Payne, who is a member of key management personnel, is employed by the academy trust. J Payne's appointment was made in open competition and N Payne was not involved in the decision making process regarding appointment. J Payne is paid within the normal pay scale for her role and receives no special treatment as a result of her relationship to a member of key management personnel.