



**Inspire Multi Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year ended 31 August 2025

Company Registration Number:
08287012 (England and Wales)

Inspire Multi Academy Trust

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Inspire Multi Academy Trust

Reference and Administrative Details

Members	C Dumighan J Chadd M Foster S Ruffell S Winfield	
Trustees	A Parr C Graham E Bolton H Brown J Ord (resigned 10 September 2025) J West (Chief Executive Headteacher and Accounting Officer) S Ruffell (Chairman)	
Company Secretary	S Allan	
Senior Management Team	Chief Executive Headteacher and Accounting Officer Chief Finance and Operations Officer and Chief Financial Officer	J West A McCully
Company Name	Inspire Multi Academy Trust	
Principal and Registered Office	Archer Road Farringdon Sunderland SR3 3DJ	
Company Registration Number	08287012 (England and Wales)	
Independent Auditor	Azets Audit Services Wynyard Park House Wynyard Avenue Wynyard TS22 5TB	
Bankers	Lloyds Bank Fawcett Street Sunderland Tyne & Wear SR1 1SF	
Solicitors	Womble Bond Dickinson The Spark Draymans Way Newcastle Helix Newcastle Upon Tyne NE4 5DE	

Inspire Multi Academy Trust

Trustees' Report

For The Period 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 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025. The annual report serves the purpose of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

The academy trust operates five academies in Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, admitting pupils aged 3 to 11 years. Our academies are Burnside Academy, Farringdon Academy, Fatfield Academy, New Penshaw Academy and Plains Farm Academy.

Four of our five academies are situated in areas of deprivation across the City of Sunderland. The trust has an overall pupil capacity of 1,440. In the school census from May 2025 the actual number on roll within each academy was:

- Burnside - 163
- Farringdon - 379
- Fatfield - 232
- New Penshaw - 143
- Plains Farm – 176

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 Inspire Multi Academy Trust Limited are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company operates as Inspire Multi Academy Trust.

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

Members' Liability

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

Trustees' Indemnities

Every trustee of the charitable company shall be indemnified out of the assets of the trust against any liability incurred by them in that capacity. This will include defending any proceedings, whether civil or criminal, in which judgment is given in favor or in which they are acquitted. The indemnity covers any application in which relief is granted to them by the court from negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the affairs of the academy trust.

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

Each trustee is assigned a lead area of responsibility linked to the trust's core business, for example EYFS, human resources, finance, health and safety, risk management, IT; these roles are assigned based upon skills and expertise and align with the Department for Education (DfE) Governance Guide.

Recruitment of trustees is administered and managed through recruitment and selection processes, which includes the formation of role profiles and role specifications. Vacancies on the Board of Trustees are advertised externally, through recruitment partners, which include Governors for Schools or Inspiring Governance Service as well as the academy trust website.

Inspire Multi Academy Trust Trustees' Report (continued)

Candidates are assessed through a recruitment and selection process administered by a selection panel. This process helps to ensure the strongest candidates are considered for vacant posts.

The number of trustees as set out in the Articles of Association and Funding Agreement shall be not less than three (but unless determined by ordinary resolution) shall not be subject to any maximum.

Subject to the Articles of Association, the Company shall have the following trustees:

- up to nine trustees appointed by ordinary resolution by members.
- the members may appoint staff trustees through such process as they may determine.
- the total number of trustees including the Chief Executive Headteacher who are employees of the company shall not exceed one third of the total number of trustees.
- the academy trust will ensure parent participation, utilising Parent Governors on our Local Governing Bodies.
- we will ensure a minimum of two Parent Governor positions will be included within the constitution for each Local Governing Body and that suitable procedures are in place to conduct Parent Governor elections.

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees

Following their appointment, all new trustees receive an introduction to their role delivered by the Chair of trustees and the Chief Executive Headteacher; this includes a visit to our academies and the opportunity to meet members of the Central Team and Senior Leadership Teams, staff and pupils. Newly appointed trustees or local governors are assigned a mentor to support their induction into their role.

Training and induction for new trustees or local governors is bespoke and tailored against their existing skills or experience. Inspire Multi Academy Trust is committed to providing training opportunities to enable trustees and local governors to be effective in their roles. Trustees are furnished with a copy of Inspire policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budget plans, management accounts and other relevant documentation to support them.

The academy trust subscribes to Sunderland City Council's governor training programme. This provides trustees and local governors with access to face-to-face and online training such as Safeguarding, school data analysis, Budget Management, SEN etc.

The trust also procures specialist training, for example safeguarding training via Helen Hogan Safeguarding Matters Ltd or Prevent from Safer Vision. We also deliver in house training as and when required, to strengthen governance i.e. data analysis, link governance etc.

An induction pack provides general information for newly appointed trustees and local governors, supporting them to understand their roles and responsibilities within the DfE Governance Guide and Scheme of Delegation.

The Trust Chair and Vice Chair hold a one to one welcome forum for newly appointed trustee and governors and have an ongoing open door policy.

Organisational Structure

The multi academy trust's governance structure consists of three levels:

- Members
- Trustees
- Academy Local Governing Bodies

A layered governance structure enables the Board of Trustees to devolve responsibility as appropriate and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels.

Inspire Multi Academy Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

The members have overall responsibility and ultimate decision-making authority for the academy trust including the establishment and running of the academies. The trustees retain overall responsibility for strategic planning and setting the company's policy as well as responsibility for all matters relating to finance, human resources and personnel matters. The trustees have the power to direct change when required.

The overall responsibility for holding school leaders to account and driving forward improvements in performance, attainment and progress in each academy ultimately sits with the Board of Trustees however, some aspects are delegated to Local Governing Bodies, with their impact and effectiveness overseen, monitored and challenged by the Board of Trustees. Local Governing Bodies discharge their functions in-line with the Scheme of Delegation.

The trustees are responsible for ensuring that Local Governing Bodies fulfil their statutory obligations in a manner, which will allow the academy trust to fulfil its principal aims and objectives. They ensure procedures are in place to deliver regularity, propriety and value for money, setting general policy, adopting the Trust Improvement Plan, setting and monitoring the budgets, external and internal review reports and enabling them to make major decisions about the direction of the company, capital expenditure, leadership appointments etc.

Local Governing Bodies are responsible for adopting an annual School Improvement Plan and implementing policies laid down by the Board of Trustees. The Headteacher of each Academy reports to the Board of Trustees and Local Governing Bodies termly on the outcomes of work in their school.

The Chief Executive Headteacher and Chief Finance and Operations Officer oversee the leadership and management of the trust at an executive level, implementing policies laid down by the Board of Trustees and reporting to them.

Arrangements for Setting Pay and Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

The academy trust follows the School Teachers Pay and Conditions document in determination of pay policies, salary ranges and structures. At the beginning of each academic year, all leaders and teaching and non-teaching staff are set appraisal objectives and supported through the appraisal process. Performance is monitored throughout the year through the application of rigorous appraisal and monitoring procedures.

Performance managers and appraisers assess individual performance termly providing staff with the opportunity to present an evidence base; this includes assessment of training and CPD requirements. The appraiser will provide an indication as to whether the member of staff is on track to meet their appraisal objectives and targets.

Trustees consider the performance of staff and administer salary reviews on an annual basis within the Personnel and Performance Management Committee. This process is usually undertaken in the summer term where salary progression is considered.

Trade Union Facility Time

Relevant Union Officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	Full-time Equivalent Employee Number
0	0

Percentage of Time Spent on Facility Time

Percentage of Time	Number of Employees
0%	0
1%-50%	0
51%-99%	0
100%	0

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Trustees' Report (continued)

Percentage of Pay Bill Spent on Facility Time

Provide the total cost of facility time	£0
Provide the total pay bill	£6.1m
Provide the percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time, calculated as: (total cost of facility time ÷ total pay bill) × 100	0

Paid Trade Union Activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours calculated as: (total hours spent on paid trade union activities by relevant union officials during the relevant period ÷ total paid facility time hours) × 100	0
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An amount of £3,343 has been paid for the Trade Union Facility service level agreement (SLA) in 2024/25. This SLA is administered via Sunderland City Council to assist and support industrial relations within Inspire Multi Academy Trust.

Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

The academy trust consists of five primary academies in Sunderland, Tyne and Wear. The academy trust has no connected charities or organisations to disclose however, we are working with a local multi academy trust in Sunderland, with a view to potentially offering them an off-payroll arrangement, to access central services support from Inspire Multi Academy Trust in 2025/26.

We continue to develop professional links with other MATs, schools, academies, colleges and other businesses where these partnerships assist in the academy trust's objectives. The Chief Executive Headteacher has been available for deployment by the DfE throughout 2024/25 as part of their Trust School Improvement offer.

Objectives and Activities

The principal objective and activity of the charitable company, in accordance with the Articles of Association, is the strategic management, development, maintenance and operation of the trust's academies keeping the estates safe and well maintained, Burnside Academy, Farringdon Academy, Fatfield Academy, New Penshaw Academy and Plains Farm Academy offering a broad and balanced education for pupils with a range of abilities aged 3 to 11 years.

Objects and Aims

Underpinning the principal objective are a number of other objectives, which assist Academy staff in fulfilling the principal objectives. These are as follows:

- To ensure that the process of education is a partnership between the learner, the school and the parents, together with trustees, employers and the community.
- To keep the pupil at the centre of this process, knowing that they have various talents and aspirations that need encouragement to develop.
- To raise standards through a relentless focus on individual achievement/attainment, effective use of new technologies and a higher percentage of outstanding teaching and leadership and management, ensuring at least good progress.
- To challenge all in the academy trust's community to fulfil their responsibilities ensuring accountability and improvement.
- To motivate and inspire all pupils and enable them to be confident, independent lifelong learners equipped to meet the challenges of the 21st century within an outstanding, safe and nurturing environment.

Inspire Multi Academy Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

- To ensure all pupils and staff show regard and respect for each other and everyone in the academy trust's communities play a full part in creating a caring, respectful and supportive school environment.
- To ensure the health and safety of our children and staff.
- To foster pupils outstanding behaviour avoiding all forms of bullying, radicalisation and extremism.
- To ensure that no child or group of children is disadvantaged through 'lost learning', challenges linked to emotional well-being or lack of wider agency support for themselves or the family.
- To explore opportunities to deliver growth of the Trust.
- To ensure the Trust remain a going concern.

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

Inspire Multi Academy Trust Development Plan Priorities for 2024/25

Priority 1 - High-Quality and Inclusive Education:

- Ensure gaps in learning for all pupils and identified groups (SEND, Disadvantaged and Gender), from 2024 data analysis, are narrowed, in order that outcomes for pupils are in line with, or above National expectations for attainment at all Key Stages.
- Develop further consistency across identified foundation subjects, providing opportunities for pupils to revisit, connect and embed prior learning.
- Embed pupil curriculum enrichment passport building progression into residential experiences.
- Improve attendance rates, particularly for disadvantaged pupils and pupils with SEND.

Success criteria:

- Ensure that gaps in learning are addressed, through an enhanced Inspire MAT curriculum offer and specific interventions are planned appropriately in order to accelerate the progress of all pupils to achieve targets.
- Attainment of SEND, Disadvantaged/ PP pupils and gender groups matches, or is improving towards, that of others with the same starting points.
- Attainment of almost all groups, at each Key Stage, is broadly in line with National averages, if below these, it is improving rapidly.
- Year 1 phonics attainment is in line with or exceeds national attainment.
- SEND pupils access appropriate Alternative Provisions and named provisions from EHCPs.
- An enriched curriculum pathway offer impacts positively on pupil engagement levels.
- Attendance rates improve towards national average and Persistent Absent rates reduce term on term.
- CPD, rigorous Performance Management, incisive Coaching and precise feedback improves the quality of teaching and outcomes for pupils.
- Trustees provide effective support and challenge to the Chief Executive Headteacher and Chief Finance and Operations Officer, resulting in raised standards.

Impact:

See Achievements and Performance section.

Priority 2 - School Improvement:

- Further develop and implement growth strategy in line with the DfE Commissioning High-Quality Trusts documentation.
- Contribute to system-led improvement through the TSI and SRMA programmes and project deployment through contribution to the External Experts register.

Inspire Multi Academy Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

Success criteria:

- Trust documentation clearly reflects the evidence required within the DfE Commissioning High-Quality Trusts documentation.
- Trustees effectively support and challenge the Chief Executive Headteacher, and Central Team on deployment and development of staffing and its impact.
- The Inspire Growth Strategy implementation plan supports the Growth strategy documentation.
- Inspire Mat successfully supports the wider system for improvement through the SRMA and TSI offers from the DfE.

Impact:

- Inspire Mat has impacted positively through successful SRMA and TSI deployments as well as through Inspire Governance services SLA.
- Growth plan is strategic and structures support current and future needs of the trust.

Priority 3 - Continue to deliver effective marketing and financial management strategies to support ongoing stability within 3 year financial budget setting.

Success Criteria:

- Academy budgets support academy improvement priorities effectively.
- Financial planning and strategy provides financial stability within 3-5 year budget setting process.
- Financial bench-marking and ICFP deploy resources effectively at the point of need.
- Strong financial oversight is evidenced through audit process, minimising the risk of fraud and ensure compliance within DfE expectations.
- Reserves are used prudently and appropriately to support the maintenance and development of the estate and educational provision of individual academies.
- TCAF funding or its replacement is awarded appropriately and supports the growth of the Trust.
- Pupil numbers increase across the Trust.

Impact:

- Academy budgets support the needs of the individual academies and stability is built into the 3-5 year budget setting process.
- Strong financial oversight is proven through outcomes of internal and external audits.
- Reserves have supported a successful CIF bid outcome for Farringdon Academy roof project.

The strategies in place to enable the Trust to achieve its objectives are:

- Effective Board of Members and Trustees, with a wide strategic skill set that is compliant with DfE preferred operating models.
- Robust financial management and leadership within each academy as well as at Trust level, with a strong record of achieving substantial levels of assurance within both internal and external audits.
- Effective 3-5-year budget planning, incorporating the effective use of the ICFP (Integrated curriculum and financial planning - Interactive Financial Planning Tool) and financial benchmarking informs decisions around developing structures and growth, as well as off-setting the financial budgetary challenges from external funding streams. The Head of Finance and Operations is a qualified SRMA and provides professional advice and support to the Trust. This whole process is supported and challenged by the Finance, Staffing, Audit and Risk Committee/Board of Trustees.
- High quality leadership at all levels and strong cycle of accountability for improvements to pupil progress and attainment outcomes at all levels.
- Effective use of pupil voice to support decision making within each academy.

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Trustees' Report (continued)

- Agreed robust accountability and performance management procedures with swift action if non-compliance.
- Effective relationships between the DfE, the Chief Executive Headteacher and the Trust in terms of negotiating any planned growth. Chief Executive Headteacher is a recognised System Leader who supporting the DfE Trust and School Improvement offer in the Durham and Sunderland region in 2024/25.
- Supporting in the management of each academy estate ensuring the buildings are safe and well maintained in line with the DfE guidance.
- Applying for bids to support capital building projects.

Public Benefit

We acknowledge as trustees that the academy trust has complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers during the period, as detailed in SORP Appendix 1: Glossary of terms.

Each of our academies open their premises to community groups and public lettings. The school premises are used for a variety of activities including community football, fitness classes, Karate, Brownies and Pilates. We also run adult and family learning training programmes.

Academy facilities available for hire are advertised via the academy websites and are available for use by community groups, members of the public and charities. Charges are in line with the agreed Lettings Policy and cover overheads, repair and maintenance.

Strategic Report

Achievements and Performance

- Burnside and Plains Farm academies were inspected by Ofsted in October and December 2024 respectively. The inspections were ungraded and both schools had taken effective action to maintain the standards identified at the previous inspection (good and good with outstanding EYFS).
- Following the Trust's three-year rising trend in the key metric for Trust Average RWM attainment (2022 = 56.2%/2023= 63% /2024= 67.2%) this measure remains above the national average in 2025 at 63% (National average 62%).
- Trust average attainment at Greater Depth within reading, writing and maths has increased since 2024 by +10.6%, +4.8% and +6.2% respectively. This improvement has ensured that Trust average attainment within Greater Depth is now in line with national average attainment within this measure. This is a significant achievement for our children when compared to their average attainment on entry which is below national average attainment.
- Pupils achieving the GLD within EYFS is below last year's National Average (this year's is currently unavailable) but has increased as a trust average from 57.6% within 2024 exit data to 59% in 2025 exit data. Pupils within these cohorts have made good progress from their starting points and the significant number of pupils who have complex learning and medical needs have been supported well to achieve their own targets.
- Phonics attainment as a trust average is 74% which is slightly below the national average of 81% and has decreased slightly from 2024 exit data average of 77%. All of our academies continue to work with RWINc in terms of continued CPD and action planning linked to phonics provision and the teaching of phonics is effective. The percentage of pupils achieving the phonics standard for the Y2 re-take is strong.
- Multiplication check results in Y4 in 2025 have increased within each mark boundary (+10.6% at 18+ /+13.6% at 20+ /+3% at 25+), increasing the trust average mark by 1 point. New Penshaw did incredibly well within this check and came fourth in a national multiplication check competition).
- The impact of leaders' work with the Maths and English Hubs can be demonstrated clearly within data outcomes and provision for pupils.

Inspire Multi Academy Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

- SEND provision is strong and Leaders work tirelessly to ensure appropriate provision and funding for pupils. All academies have developed effective enhanced SEND support provisions to meet increasingly complex needs of our pupils. They rigorously challenge funding offers through the EHCP process and as a result funding linked to EHCPs has increased over three years from 150k to 300k.
- There is a need to continue to improve the attainment and progress of disadvantaged pupils and identified vulnerable groups within identified cohorts and subjects.
- Attendance management procedures are well managed and robust which has resulted in improvements for individual pupils, families and groups. This was well evidenced within the current Ofsted reports for our academies.
- Trust wide CPD opportunities continue to be fully implemented, both internally and externally for: teaching assistants, early career teachers, newly qualified teachers, teachers, aspiring middle leaders, middle leaders, catch-up leaders, senior leaders and head teachers.
- A full suite of NPQs have been accessed across the Trust. The Early Career Framework for teachers has been successfully implemented across the Trust and the Lead Head teacher for Learning and teaching has effectively supported and enabled academies with ECTs. A strong partnership with Northern Lights Trust and Sunderland University and our own high-quality mentorship programme have ensured that students and colleagues new to the profession are effectively supported into their career.

The reputation of the Trust has continued to be developed through the Head of Finance and Operations supporting the DfE School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) programme and the Chief Executive Headteacher being assigned a deployment for the DfE Trust School Improvement Offer to provide support to a school 'Requiring Improvement' in Sunderland. The Head of Governance and Compliance supports local schools as a governance professional, providing governor support and clerking services through a service level agreement.

The effective strategic and financial planning, systems and working relationships across the academy trust ensures that our capacity for further improvement is strong.

Successful external health and safety audits across the trust demonstrate robust practices and levels of compliance.

Mental Health and well-being work continue to be recognised through the Mental Health Charter Mark awards. The SLA with Educational Mutual has been renewed for 2024/25, providing a supportive package for staff linked to well-being, which includes, financial advice, menopause counselling, physiotherapy appointments, access to GP and nurse online appointments and free flu jabs.

Our Business Continuity Plans, Cyber Response Plans, lockdown procedures, external advice from Health and Safety, audit teams, prevent and safeguarding partners, consultation with union colleagues via JCC as well as effective risk assessments have ensured that we are able to continue to respond appropriately to any unforeseen critical incidents.

Key Performance Indicators

Burnside and Plains Farm academies were inspected by Ofsted in October and December 2024 respectively. The inspections were ungraded and both schools had taken effective action to maintain the standards identified at the previous inspection (good and good with outstanding EYFS).

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Trustees' Report (continued)

ASSESSMENT DATA OUTCOMES – SUMMER 2025

EYFS

Academy	GLD %	Literacy ELG %			Maths ELG %	
		Communication	Word Reading	Writing	Number	Numerical Patterns
Burnside	64	64	64	64	72	68
Farringdon	59	67	67	67	69	69
Fatfield	69	87	87	83	90	83
New Penshaw	46	46	46	46	54	54
Plains Farm	58	58	58	58	58	58
Trust Average	59	64	64	64	67	66
National Average 2025	68.3	79.5	76.5	71.8	79.3	78.7

Phonics

Academy	Year 1 %
Burnside	67
Farringdon	76
Fatfield	89
New Penshaw	75
Plains Farm	65
Trust Average 2024	77
Trust Average 2025	74
Trust Average Variance	-3%
National Average 2025	81%

Inspire Multi Academy Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

Multiplication Check - Year 4

Academy	18+ Score %	20+ Score %	25+ Score %	Average Score
Burnside	62	55	28	19
Farringdon	40	35	11	16
Fatfield	95	90	38	23
New Penshaw	100	100	68	24
Plains Farm	67	54	21	19
Trust Average			33	20

End of Key Stage 2

Academy	Reading %		Writing %		Maths %		Combined %		GPS %	
	EXS+	GDS	EXS+	GDS	EXS+	GDS	EXS + +	GDS	EXS +	GDS
Burnside	64	36	57	14	57	14	57	0	64	36
Farringdon	69	20	71	14	74	14	60	3	69	20
Fatfield	85	63	77	22	85	59	74	22	85	63
New Penshaw	66	33	58	0	63	17	58	0	66	33
Plains Farm	74	17	70	13	65	22	65	9	74	17
Trust Average 2024	73.8	23.4	68.6	7.8	73.4	18.8	67.2	5	73.8	23.4
Trust Average 2025	72	34	66.6	12.6	69	25	63	7	72	34
Trust Average Variance	-1.8	+10.6	-2	+4.8	-4.4	+6.2	-4.2	+2	-1.8	+10.6
National Average 2025	75	33	72	13	74	26	62	8	75	33

Inspire Multi Academy Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

Summer term assessments were completed in the usual cycle across each year group. Priorities for the trust continue to include the further development of writing attainment and progress, narrowing of the attainment gap between disadvantaged pupils and their non-disadvantaged peers, boys' attainment and continuing with the increasing the percentage of pupils attaining at the higher standard. All academies will continue to work with RWINc phonics programme and the English and Maths Hubs on order to continue to develop practice and provision this year.

Attendance management remains robust across the Trust. This was verified in all of our Ofsted inspections that took place in summer term and autumn term 2024. Despite the ongoing challenges of parents taking holidays in term time and cases of childhood illnesses, particularly in the autumn term, schools can evidence the impact of effective work with leaders on improving attendance outcomes for individual pupils and families. Overall attendance rates across the trust have improved since last year. Fatfield and Burnside academies are in line with National Average rates at 95% and 95.2% respectively. Persistent absentee rates have reduced significantly across the Trust (Burnside -7.1%, Fatfield -4.8%, Plains Farm -5.4% and New Penshaw -11.6%). Farringdon Academy PA remains at 19% although they have improved overall attendance by 0.8%. Improving attendance towards historic national average remains a key action for 2025-26 in order that attendance issues are not a barrier to attainment and progress.

Financial systems continued to remain robust throughout the year enabling the Finance, Staffing, Audit and Risk Committee and the Board of Trustees to meet deadlines and ensure propriety. Termly internal financial reviews plus internal scrutiny in the Spring and Summer terms carried out by Sunderland City Council internal audit service have consistently found substantial levels of assurance in all areas. Strong financial management, bench marking and IFR analysis are used along with strategic planning of staff and priorities with finance teams and Head teachers to ensure the strategic aims of the Trust can continue to be met.

Key Performance Indicators	Farringdon Academy	New Penshaw Academy	Plains Farm Academy	Burnside Academy	Fatfield Academy
Percentage of Total Revenue Income Spent	94%	91%	95%	97%	92%
Teaching Staff % of Total Revenue Expenditure	51%	53%	39%	45%	46%
All Staff pay % of Total Revenue Expenditure	77%	77%	74%	76%	72%

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

Most of the academy trust's income is obtained from the Department for Education (DfE) in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received during the period covered by this report and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 32.

All of the expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities is in furtherance of the Trust's objectives.

Inspire Multi Academy Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

In 2024/25, the academy trust invested £85,000 of GAG surpluses to support academy budgets with:

- National pay increases for all staff
- Energy costs
- Supply costs
- In year deficits

DfE Capital grants received in the year have been used to further support and improve Trust estates and funding was also used to support the following academy projects:

- The Trust were awarded a Condition Improvement Fund grant on £567,220 to replace part of the flat roofing system at Farringdon Academy. The Board of Trustees have agreed a contribution of £29,854 from reserves, to support the project.
- £2,607 allocated to Plains Farm to install a leased line to provide superfast broadband to the site (Virgin Media donated £5k towards this cost).

During the period ending 31 August 2025 expenditure amounting to £8,412,243 was incurred or accrued, £8,057,950 excluding depreciation and LGPS expenses. This was offset entirely by grants receivable from the DfE, Local Authority grants and other funds.

Capital Grants of £31,923 have been received during 2024/25 in respect of the Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) grants.

The Trust were awarded a Condition Improvement Fund grant on £567,220 to replace part of the flat roofing system at Farringdon Academy. The Board of Trustees have agreed a contribution of £29,854 from reserves, to support the project. Project planning commenced in spring 2025, with contractors commencing on site from summer/autumn 2025.

In accordance with the Charities SORP 2019, the DFC grants received are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted asset funds.

Pupil numbers have fallen again this year, and we continue to monitor pupil numbers closely across the trust. Academies continue to provide full time nursery provision linked to the Government's 30-hour free childcare agenda. Academies continue their drive to promote the schools through targeted promotional campaigns and advertising opportunities. We hold regular meetings with Sunderland City Council to monitor birth rates and pupil numbers across the City, supporting us to ensure pupil number projections are accurate.

Reserves Policy

Trustees review the level of trust reserves on a termly basis and have agreed that the academy trust should aim to hold a prudent level of reserves designed to provide:

- sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants
- a contingency fund for any unexpected emergencies
- funding capacity for future estate maintenance and planned capital investment subject to conditions as set out by the DfE
- funding to cover any future liabilities as outlined within the Financial Statements.

Trustees agree that expenditure of trust reserves is in line with the short and medium term Trust Improvement Plans that support academies in raising standards as described in our plans for the future defined within this report. Expenditure of reserves is reviewed by the Board of Trustees on a termly basis.

Inspire Multi Academy Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

As of 31 August 2025 the level of trust reserves held in restricted funds not available for general purposes is £137,153 plus a balance of unrestricted general funds of £296,639 giving a net surplus of £433,792. The Board of Trustees have reviewed the reserve levels and believe that they should provide sufficient working capital to cover its aims and objectives.

The reserves policy confirms that a surplus or a deficit position for the pension scheme would generally result in a cash flow effect for the academy trust in the form of an increase or decrease of the employer's pension contributions over a period of years.

Investment Policy

The Investment Policy is reviewed annually by Trustees in line with the academy trust's investment powers that are governed by the Articles of Association, which permits the Charitable Company to deposit or invest any funds not immediately required for the furtherance of its objectives. Trustees agreed a policy for investment, which would cover the running expenses of the largest academy as a contingency fund, which ensures that extra funds are available on a regular, timely basis to deal with any unforeseen emergencies.

When an investment is made and the funds come to maturity, trustees will then make the decision to re-invest or if the funds will be required for urgent necessities or contingencies. Trustees have an approved investment policy in place.

This year, trustees agreed to invest available funds with Lloyds Bank, within a commercial instant access savings account. This is a no-risk investment with interest calculated as follows:

Amount	Annual Equivalent Rate (AER) (%)	GROSS (%)
£20m+	1.92%	1.90%
£10m+	1.81%	1.80%
£1m+	1.64%	1.63%
£500,000+	1.11%	1.10%
£1+	1.00%	1.00%
Interest is calculated daily and applied monthly.		

Interest earned on this investment in 2024/25 has been £2,580.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The academy trust is subject to a number of risks and uncertainties in common with other academies. The Board of Trustees recognise that the principal risks and uncertainties are centred on the changes in the levels of funding from the DfE and also the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). However, the trustees consider that the individual academies are able to meet their liabilities in respect of paying annual contributions for the foreseeable future, therefore the risk is minimised.

The academy trust has been undertaking a comprehensive assessment of possible risks to the future of the Trust and associated academies. The Board of Trustees have assessed the major risks, which the charitable company is exposed to, in particular those relating to the specific teaching, provision of facilities and other operational areas of the trust, and its finances.

Trustees worked with the Central Team and identified risks surrounding the Trust achieving the objects, aims and priorities, ensuring systems are in place to assess, manage and mitigate identified risks. The Trust has compiled a Risk Register, Business Continuity Plan and Cyber Response Plan which are agreed annually and monitored and reviewed throughout the year.

The system of Risk Management is monitored and reviewed on a termly basis by the Board of Trustees, supported by the Chief Executive Headteacher, Chief Finance and Operations Officer, academy Head teachers and Central Team staff to ensure effective Risk Management Procedures are in place.

Inspire Multi Academy Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

A key strategic risk is the challenge of maintaining academic performance against national expectations. The performance of each academy is rigorously monitored through termly reviews, challenge meetings, and closely tracking pupil progress through assessment data tracking systems throughout the year to ensure positive outcomes.

In addition to this, another key area of risk to the trust is the potential of falling pupil roll. Pupil roll is monitored closely by academy Headteachers who are active in promoting links within the local press, community and businesses, collaborating and sharing initiatives across the Trust.

Sunderland City Council provide professional advice to the Trust in respect of building management, asbestos management, legionella management and health and safety. The Council's Building Services Team complete an annual building maintenance plan, which informs trustees of premises and estate related priorities, which can be prioritised in order of need. The Central Team, who are IOSH accredited support Headteachers and their leadership teams to undertake termly premises inspections, with findings reported to the Board of Trustees on a termly basis. Using the information available to them from internal and external sources, trustees effectively manage emerging risks across the estate, identifying priorities for action and supporting academies with reserve funding, as required.

The academy trust review DfE CDC survey data working through priorities as identified in the surveys taking further action when and where necessary.

One IT provide professional IT services to the Trust, ensuring our IT systems are secure and we are fully compliant with Data Protection regulations. The One IT team conduct real time monitoring of our network, mitigating any security threats as they emerge. Trustees receive a termly report from the Data Protection Officer, which outlines any actual or possible threats and appropriate action taken. Trustees have invested financial resources into providing a safe, secure IT environment for all pupils and staff.

Trustees have ensured that 2024/25 budgets were effectively managed and met the needs of all academies. Trustees have mitigated further risk through prudent budget planning and monitoring to ensure ongoing financial sustainability. Balanced budgets for 2025/26 were set, evidencing effective financial planning.

Fundraising

All fundraising activity is administered via appropriate staff employed by each Academy and is overseen by the Head teacher. All funding raised from activities support the furtherance of school and academy trust objectives and the outcomes of fundraising are reported to Parents and other relevant stakeholders.

All fundraising activities have taken place in line with academy risk assessments. This year our academies have worked proactively to fundraise to support in year budgets with identified projects, raise the profile of the academy within the community and to support local charities. This has been conducted with all staff, embracing pupil voice through the work of the School Council. The fundraising linked to charity work supports the academies work within the Mental Health Charter Mark Award, which all academies are engaging with. Academies are proactive in seeking out financial grants to support learning projects.

Examples of key fundraising activities this year have included:

- Seasonal Fayres
- Macmillan Bake sales
- Comic Relief
- Seasonal events including Christmas, Easter, Halloween, Valentines etc
- Non-uniform day
- Raffles
- Tuck shop
- Colour Run
- Sporting Sponsorship Events

Inspire Multi Academy Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

Grant funding to support the children's learning, parents and wider community has also been received from:

- Active Family Vouchers for parents at Christmas
- AK Teaching Loyalty Bonus
- Bethany Church
- Cash 4 Kids
- Community Chest
- Foyle Foundation
- Gentoo
- Great British School Trip
- Great North Maths Hub
- Greggs Breakfast
- Groundworks
- Henry Smith
- Nature Park
- Royal Horticultural Society
- Safer Parking
- Sir Tom Cowie
- Sunderland City Council (Innovate to Include)
- Taylor Wimpey
- Teaching and Mastery
- UNMUK Music Grant
- Westgarth Hub
- Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust

Each academy will proactively review areas of grant funding to support academy budgets in 2025/26.

Plans for Future Periods

Specific plans and priorities for 2025/26 are:

KEY OBJECTIVES

Priority 1 - High-Quality and Inclusive Education:

- Ensure gaps in learning for all pupils and all identified vulnerable groups, from 2025 data analysis, are narrowed, in order that outcomes for pupils are demonstrate good or better progress from their individual starting points and where appropriate are in line with, or above National expectations for attainment in all key measures.
- Use evidence-based impact from curriculum retrieval practice development within history, geography and science, to develop further consistency across remaining identified subjects.
- Evaluate and implement the findings from the national curriculum review, incorporating the renewed writing framework, EYFS and 'Strong Foundations' expectations
- Continue to improve attendance rates, particularly for disadvantaged pupils and pupils with SEND.

Priority 2 - Growth and Wider System Engagement:

- Further develop and implement growth strategy in line with the DfE Commissioning High-Quality Trusts documentation.
- Contribute to system-led improvement through the implementation and delivery of Finance service level agreement to Balmoral Learning Trust, Inspire Governance services and the DfE SRMA programmes.

Inspire Multi Academy Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

Priority 3 - Finance and Operations:

- Continue to deliver effective marketing and financial management strategies to support ongoing stability and sustainability within 3 year financial budget setting.
- Ensure the successful delivery of Farringdon Academy roof CIF project in line with grant conditions.

Priority 4 - Workforce:

- Develop early career teachers by providing high quality placements for ECTs and ITT through Sunderland University and Inspire MAT mentoring.

Priority 5 - Governance and Leadership:

- Ensure that all levels of leadership and governance understand the implications of the new Ofsted toolkit.
- Continue to support the Board of Trustees and Local Governor Boards with recruitment and retention of governors and trustees.

Our longer-term plans for further improvement to the Trust estate are to include:

- Rolling refurbishment programme across the Trust estate, responding to priorities identified in the CDC survey, asset management plans and encompassing emerging academy priorities, including:
 - Roof replacement
 - Pointing and masonry repairs
 - Hard standing repairs/resurfacing
 - Energy efficiency initiatives (LED lighting, insulation of ceilings/walls, boiler replacement, boiler management systems, window replacement)
 - Pupil and staff toilet refurbishment
 - Internal refurbishment (flooring, decoration, suspended ceilings, fixtures and fittings)
 - Asbestos maintenance/removal
- Investment in IT systems to satisfy future business and curriculum needs, including:
 - Network security
 - Computer and server hardware
 - Software
 - Network hardware

In line with the priorities identified above, to support the furtherance of the Trust objectives, we will seek investment through grant funding bids, for example the Condition Improvement Fund or charitable grants.

Inspire Multi Academy Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

Auditor

Insofar as the trustees are aware:

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

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 16 December 2025 and signed on the board's behalf by:



S Ruffell

Chair of Trustees

Date: 16 December 2025

Inspire Multi Academy Trust

Governance Statement

Scope of Responsibility

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

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

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive Headteacher, as Accounting Officer, working in conjunction with the Chief Finance and Operations Officer, as Chief Financial 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 Inspire Multi Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met on 7 occasions during the year.

Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
A Parr	7	7
C Graham	5	7
E Bolton	5	7
H Brown	6	7
J West	7	7
J Ord	5	7
S Ruffell (Chairman)	6	7

Conflicts of Interest

An electronic register of business and pecuniary interests is in place and updated annually and through the year, as required. The register covers all layers of the governance structure, supporting us to manage any conflicts of interest which may arise. Members, Trustees and Local Governors also have an opportunity to declare any interests which arise within meetings.

Where a conflict of interest arises, the party concerned may be asked to withdraw from discussions. Any party with a conflict of interest will not be permitted to vote on any business relating to the area of conflict.

The register is published on the Trust website and finance/administration staff review the register to ensure there are no conflicts of interest when awarding contracts. If an interest is to be declared the correct procedure as outlined in the Academy Trust Handbook will be followed.

Governance Review

Following a review of governance in 2020/21, trustees agreed to adopt the DfE's preferred Governance model. This saw the reduction of Staff Trustees from three to one, with the Chief Executive Headteacher remaining as the only Staff Trustee. This approach would provide a greater level of independent scrutiny and challenge from the Board to the senior management team.

Inspire Multi Academy Trust

Governance Statement (continued)

We currently have two trustee vacancies, with a third due in September following the retirement of a trustee. We will look to recruit to these vacant posts in 2025/26.

Members are independent of the Board of Trustees (with the exception of the Chair of Trustees) and this enables them to hold trustees to account for the operation of our academies. There are currently five Members in place, who have a breadth of experience across the private, public, community and education sectors.

We currently have no member vacancies.

The Board of Trustees take on focused, lead roles in line with the Governance Guide from the DfE. The board deploy a business board approach, with expertise across HR, Finance, Education Leadership, Facilities Management, Health and Safety and IT.

Throughout 2024/25, the senior leadership team have provided ongoing training and development opportunities for trustees and local governors. This ensures they are equipped to support and challenge the Leadership Teams at school and trust level, offering highly effective challenge and are able to interpret school data, holding leaders to account for the performance, progress and attainment across each school.

Trustees will work with the Chief Executive Headteacher during September 2025 in the production of the Trust Improvement Plan for 2025/26.

Sub-committees of the main Board of Trustees

Finance, Staffing, Audit and Risk Committee

The Finance, Staffing, Audit and Risk Committee is a sub-committee of the Board of Trustees. The aims and objectives of the committee, as outlined in the approved Scheme of Delegation, are to assist the decision making of trustees in consultation with the Chief Executive Headteacher, Chief Finance and Operations Officer and Headteachers to ensure sound management of academy finances, staffing and resources. This will include budget planning, budget monitoring and probity and to act as a critical friend providing strategic direction to offer support and challenge ensuring that all schools operate within Financial Regulations.

In relation to their audit function, the aims and objectives of the committee, as outlined in the approved Scheme of Delegation, is to advise trustees on the adequacy and effectiveness of the trust's system of internal control. This includes arrangements for risk management, control and governance processes and securing economic efficiency and effectiveness (value for money).

It has been agreed that the committee will meet to:

- review trust internal audit reports following termly audits of internal controls and governance arrangements and the annual summary report.
- meet with Azets, the external auditor.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
C Graham	3	3
E Bolton	3	3
H Brown	3	3
J West	2	3
S Ruffell	3	3

Inspire Multi Academy Trust

Governance Statement (continued)

Personnel and Performance Management Committee

The Personnel and Performance Management Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. The aims and objectives of the committee, as outlined in the approved Scheme of Delegation, in consultation with the Chief Executive Headteacher and Academy Headteachers is to keep under review and advise the Board of Trustees on:

- staffing structures
- making recommendations on personnel related expenditure
- overseeing the appointment and reduction of staff
- the administration of salary and performance management policy
- salary issues, salary progression as well as considering appeals on pay grades or pay awards
- working conditions - monitoring work/life balance, well-being and staff absence.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
E Bolton	1	1
H Brown	2	3
C Graham	1	1
A Parr	3	3
J West	1	1
S Ruffell	3	3

Review of Value for Money

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

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

The accounting officer for the academy trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- effective school development and financial planning
- continuous self-evaluation, reviewing the impact of CPD
- improving the quality of school leadership and governance through CPD and succession planning, drawing on the talents of our team
- effective use of financial benchmarking across the trust
- increased attainment and pupil progress through accurate data tracking
- increased skill base of trustees and governors
- increasing awareness across the trust of achieving Best Value and economies of scale
- rigorous appraisal management, which is monitored and reviewed throughout the year
- using DfE CDC surveys to support in identifying improvement projects across the trust estate ensuring the trust estate is safe and well- maintained. Using the information to inform future CIF bids.

Inspire Multi Academy Trust

Governance Statement (continued)

Examples of how value for money is being achieved are detailed below.

As a result of economy of scales achieved through the renegotiation of service level agreements on an annual basis the academy trust realised savings in the following areas:

- facilities management and grounds maintenance
- supply cover
- absence insurance, review of services resulting in enhanced health and wellbeing package including vaccination benefits
- human resources
- IT software, hardware and support.

Other ways in which the Trust is successful in achieving efficiencies:

- training and sharing staff across the trust in particular areas of expertise, for example administration or repairs and maintenance of premises
- best value exercise carried out for annual training event securing significant savings
- tender exercise completed for tree/ground works and IT provision across the Trust
- benchmarking exercise carried out across the trust in respect to energy usage and charges
- School Business Managers meet regularly to share best practice and areas where economies of scale can be utilised to drive down costs i.e. stationery procurement, and continually challenge all financial transactions ensuring that they are in line with Trust objectives and for the benefit of the children
- premises supplies
- Site staff working together across the estate to support premises management and key holding
- printing software installed on all computer devices to increase efficiencies in multi-function device printing and scanning costs and facility to monitor copy costs
- reducing staff printing allowances
- lower energy photocopier review
- strategic plan across the Trust to install low energy light fittings, which will ensure long-term energy savings
- promoting an ethos of 'reuse, recycle and repair' attitude across the Trust
- sharing of resources
- being proactive in applying for and securing grant income to support the furtherance of the Trust objectives whilst also delivering efficiencies
- SRMA deployment
- governance service level agreement available for local schools and academies
- purchase Trust software licences.
- review use of software packages annually.

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

Inspire Multi Academy Trust

Governance Statement (continued)

Capacity to Handle Risk

The Board of Trustees and senior leadership team, in conjunction with appropriately qualified Local Authority personnel, have 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. The Board of Trustees regularly reviews this process.

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:

- the scheme of delegation is set and agreed by trustees and reviewed at least annually
- Trust finance handbook clearly defines systems of financial control and reporting
- the finance policy is reviewed annually
- trustees receive financial management reports on a monthly basis for review and challenge
- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and termly financial reports, which are reviewed and agreed by the Board of Trustees
- termly internal financial audit reviews by the commissioned provider
- internal financial reviews are undertaken in each academy by Head of Finance and Operations (SRMA qualified)
- regular reviews by the Finance, Audit, Staffing and Risk Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties
- identification and management of risks
- Trust Arrears Policy to provide each Academy with a process in respect of debt recovery
- Trust end of month financial procedures
- Ongoing CPD to ensure financial compliancy
- Trust health and safety premises inspections
- Annual health and safety training for all staff
- Trust review of annual asset management plans
- Online monitoring and filtering systems
- Cyber Response Plan, National Cyber Security training and for all staff and Lloyds Bank cyber security awareness training for administration and central team staff
- Risk Protection Arrangement training webinars
- Dynamic risk assessment following lessons learned after any incidents or accidents.

The Board of Trustees has decided to buy in an internal audit service from Sunderland City Council.

This option has been chosen by Trustees to ensure unbiased independent biannual reviews on financial compliancy.

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

- testing of governance arrangements
- testing of payroll/recruitment processes
- testing of business continuity processes, including IT systems, cyber controls and recovery
- testing of purchase systems
- testing of control account/bank reconciliations.

Inspire Multi Academy Trust

Governance Statement (continued)

Internal Audit will carry out checks on a twice-yearly basis and will provide reports after each visit along with an annual summary from September 2025 for the Board of Trustees on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities and prepares an annual summary report to the committee outlining areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

All academies were subject to termly internal audits, which included governance arrangements, financial controls and systems. The objective of the audits was to provide assurance on whether the trust's governance and financial management arrangements are robust and operate effectively to safeguard public funds. The audit report and any recommendations are reported to the Chief Financial Officer and Accounting Officer and reported to the Finance, Audit and Staffing Committee on a termly basis.

The findings of the internal audit as at spring 2025 and summer 2025 gave substantial assurance that the Academy Trust has effective governance and financial management arrangements in place. Furthermore, the controls evaluated were judged to be well designed, appropriate in scope and applied consistently and effectively. No issues were identified which could prevent the objectives of the Trust being achieved.

Review of Effectiveness

As accounting officer, Mrs J West has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the period in question, the review has been informed by:

- the work of 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
- correspondence from DfE e.g. financial notice to improve/notice to improve (FNtI/NtI) and 'minded to' letters.

The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Finance, Audit, Staffing and Risk Committee and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Conclusion

Based on the advice of the Finance, Audit, Staffing 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 16 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



S Ruffell

Chair of Trustees



J West

Accounting Officer

Inspire Multi Academy Trust

Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance

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

I confirm that I and the board of trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of 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.



J West

Accounting Officer

Date: 16 December 2025

Inspire Multi 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:

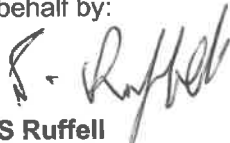
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards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

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

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

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

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



S Ruffell

Chair of Trustees

Inspire Multi Academy Trust

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Board of Trustees of Inspire Multi Academy Trust

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Opinion

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

In our opinion the accounts:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the accounts does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the accounts or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the accounts themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Inspire Multi Academy Trust

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Board of Trustees of Inspire Multi Academy Trust (continued)

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the trustees' report including the incorporated strategic report for the financial year for which the accounts are prepared is consistent with the accounts; and
- the trustees' report including the incorporated strategic report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the academy trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report, including the incorporated strategic report.

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the accounts, the trustees are responsible for assessing the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

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

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above and on the Financial Reporting Council's website, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

We obtain and update our understanding of the entity, its activities, its control environment, and likely future developments, including in relation to the legal and regulatory framework applicable and how the entity is complying with that framework. Based on this understanding, we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. This includes consideration of the risk of acts by the entity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, we designed procedures which included:

- Enquiry of senior leadership, Governors/Trustees and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;

Inspire Multi Academy Trust

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Board of Trustees of Inspire Multi Academy Trust (continued)

- Assessing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations including compliance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by the Department for Education;
- Performing audit work over the recognition of grant income and the allocation of expenditure to funds;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

We identified the following areas as those most likely to have a material impact on the financial statements: Health and Safety; employment law (including the Working Time Directive); and compliance with the Charities Act 2011 and UK Companies Act.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

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

Use of our report

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



**Angela Ingham FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Azets Audit Services**

16/12/2025

**Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor**

Wynyard Park House
Wynyard Avenue
Wynyard
United Kingdom
TS22 5TB

Inspire Multi Academy Trust

Independent Reporting Accountant's Report on Regularity to Inspire Multi Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 9 October 2025 and further to the requirements of the Department for Education (DfE) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Inspire Multi Academy Trust during the period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to Inspire Multi Academy Trust and DfE in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Inspire Multi Academy Trust and DfE 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 Inspire Multi Academy Trust and DfE, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Inspire Multi Academy Trust 's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Inspire Multi Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 1 March 2012 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2024, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Approach

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- completion of self-assessment questionnaire by Accounting Officer
- discussions with the Accounting Officer and finance team
- review of Internal Assurance reports
- review of trustee and committee meeting minutes
- review of finance and other relevant policies
- review of purchases, expenses and expense claims on a sample basis including the application of controls and tendering processes where applicable
- review of gifts and hospitality transactions including the application of controls
- review of credit and debit card transactions including the application of controls
- review of payroll transactions on a sample bases including the application of controls

Inspire Multi Academy Trust

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Independent Reporting Accountant's Report on Regularity to Inspire Multi Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education (continued)

- review of potential special payments to staff
- review of leases and consideration of areas where borrowing may have been incurred
- consideration of transactions with related and connected parties
- review of register of business interests for completeness and compliance with regulations
- enquiries into transactions that may require disclosure under DfE delegated authority rules
- consideration of value for money and appropriateness of transactions

Conclusion

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

Azets Audit Service

Reporting Accountant
Azets Audit Services

Dated: 16/12/2025

Inspire Multi Academy Trust

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

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted General Funds £000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £000	Total 2024/25 £000	Total 2023/24 £000
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	2	6	43	599	648	77
Charitable activities:						
Funding for educational operations	3	64	7,710	47	7,821	7,425
Other trading activities	4	237	8	-	245	225
Investments	5	3	-	-	3	-
Total		310	7,761	646	8,717	7,727
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	6	61	5	-	66	70
Charitable activities:						
Educational operations	7	260	7,708	378	8,346	8,189
Total		321	7,713	378	8,412	8,259
Net income / (expenditure)		(11)	48	268	305	(532)
Transfers between funds	18	(5)	-	5	-	-
Other recognised gains / (losses):						
Actuarial (losses) / gains on defined benefit pension schemes	18,27	-	(1,537)	-	(1,537)	(406)
Pension asset not recognised	18,27		1,513		1,513	389
Net movement in funds		(16)	24	273	281	(549)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		313	113	9,121	9,547	10,096
Total funds carried forward		297	137	9,394	9,828	9,547

Inspire Multi Academy Trust

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2025

Company Number 08287012

	Note	2025 £000	2025 £000	2024 £000	2024 £000
Fixed Assets					
Intangible assets	12		11		23
Tangible assets	13		8,778		9,070
Current Assets					
Stock	14	-		-	
Debtors	15	771		464	
Cash at bank and in hand		705		467	
		<u>1,476</u>		<u>931</u>	
Liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	16	(437)		(477)	
Net current assets			<u>1,039</u>		<u>454</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>9,828</u>		<u>9,547</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	17		-		-
Net assets excluding pension liability			<u>9,828</u>		<u>9,547</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	27		-		-
Total net assets			<u>9,828</u>		<u>9,547</u>
Funds of the academy trust:					
Restricted funds					
- Fixed asset fund	18	9,394		9,121	
- Restricted income fund	18	137		113	
- Pension reserve	18	-		-	
Total restricted funds			<u>9,531</u>		<u>9,234</u>
Unrestricted income funds	18		<u>297</u>		<u>313</u>
Total funds			<u>9,828</u>		<u>9,547</u>

The financial statements on pages 32 to 56 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 16 December 2025 and are signed on their behalf by:



Mr S Ruffell

Chair of Trustees

Inspire Multi Academy Trust

Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

	Note	2025 £000	2024 £000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	22	(334)	(373)
Cash flows from investing activities	24	572	(55)
Cash flows from financing activities	23	-	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		<u>238</u>	<u>(428)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2024		467	895
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2025	25	<u>705</u>	<u>467</u>

Inspire Multi Academy Trust

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

1. Statement of 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 Inspire Multi 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 the Republic of Ireland (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by DfE, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

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

Going Concern

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

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 recognised when there is entitlement and are not deferred over the life of the asset on which they are expended.

- **Sponsorship Income**

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

- **Donations**

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

Inspire Multi Academy Trust

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

1. Statement of Accounting Policies (continued)

- **Other income**
Other income, including the hire of facilities, is recognised in the period it is receivable and to the extent the academy trust has provided the goods or services.
- **Donated goods, facilities and services**
Goods donated for resale are included at fair value, being the expected proceeds from sale less the expected costs of sale. If it is practical to assess the fair value at receipt, it is recognised in stock and 'Income from other trading activities'. Upon sale, the value of 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.

- **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.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Intangible Fixed Assets

Intangible assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably. Intangible assets are initially recognised at cost and are subsequently measured at cost net of amortisation and any provision for impairment.

Amortisation is provided on intangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, as follows:

Software licences – over the useful life of the individual licence.

Inspire Multi Academy Trust

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

1. Statement of Accounting Policies (continued)

Tangible Fixed Assets

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

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

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

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| • Land | 125 years |
| • Long leasehold buildings | 50 years |
| • Fixtures, fittings and equipment | 10 years |
| • ICT equipment | 4 years |

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

The trust's land and buildings are occupied on a 125-year lease from the local authority. In the view of the trustees, the risks and rewards of occupying the site have been substantially transferred to the trust and therefore the land and buildings have been recognised as a donation on conversion and capitalised within the restricted fixed assets fund. The basis of valuation has been disclosed within the fixed assets note.

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

Liabilities

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

Provisions

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

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

Inspire Multi Academy Trust

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

1. Statement of Accounting Policies (continued)

Leased Assets

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

Investments

In line with the Trust's Investment Policy, Trustees agreed to invest available funds, that are not immediately needed for the day to day running of operations, within a 'no risk' commercial instant access savings account with Lloyds Bank. Interest earned on this account is calculated daily and applied monthly.

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 15. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Amounts due to the charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held as face value less any impairment.

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

Financial liabilities – trade creditor, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised costs as detailed in notes 16 and 17. 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

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

Pension Benefits

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

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

Inspire Multi Academy Trust

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

1. Statement of Accounting Policies (continued)

The LGPS is a funded multi-employer scheme, and the assets are held separately from those of the academy trust in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to net income / (expenditure) are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred.

Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

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

Fund Accounting

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

Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by the 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 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.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit 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 27, 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.

The UK corporate bond yields at 31 August 2025 are at their highest levels for many years resulting in higher accounting discount rates at the year end. This places a significantly lower value on the pension obligations compared to last year and will be one of the main reasons a balance has been reported. We have ensured that our assumptions are appropriate for the Academy Trust and the valuation has been based on the following estimates:

Inspire Multi Academy Trust

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

1. Statement of Accounting Policies (continued)

- There is a minimum funding requirement in relation to LGPS
- There is the ability to recover a surplus through the ability to reduce future contributions (not refund)
- In calculating the surplus, the present value of current and past service costs is offset against the future contributions over the future period
- The present values in the above calculations are calculated using an annuity representing participation into perpetuity.

There is no known intention to exit the LGPS and therefore the economic benefit of a refund would be highly unlikely and on that basis recognition of an asset is considered inappropriate. We have however considered the economic benefit available to the Academy Trust as a future contribution reduction and whether it is appropriate to recognise the net asset in full. Under FRS 102, a net asset restriction may apply as the prevailing view is that a minimum funding requirement for future service exists in the LGPS. We requested our actuaries consider the impact of the minimum funding requirement on the asset ceiling and as a result we have restricted the asset to £nil based upon an asset restriction calculation. We consider this to be appropriate and a more accurate reflection of the pension positions as at 31 August 2025.

Inspire Multi Academy Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025
(continued)

2 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Total 2024/25 £000	Total 2023/24 £000
Capital grants	-	599	599	32
Donated fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Other donations	6	43	49	45
	<u>6</u>	<u>642</u>	<u>648</u>	<u>77</u>
2024 Total	<u>4</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>77</u>	

3 Funding for the Academy Trust's Educational Operations

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Total 2024/25 £000	Total 2023/24 £000
DfE / ESFA revenue grants				
- General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	5,260	5,260	4,975
- Other DfE / ESFA grants	-	1,293	1,293	1,175
	<u>-</u>	<u>6,553</u>	<u>6,553</u>	<u>6,150</u>
Other Government Grants				
Local Authority Grants	-	1,053	1,053	961
Other Government Grants	-	25	25	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,078</u>	<u>1,078</u>	<u>961</u>
Covid-19 additional funding (DfE / ESFA)				
Recovery Premium		-	-	58
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>58</u>
Other income from the academy trust's educational operations				
Insurance Claims – RPA	-	47	47	110
Other Income	64	79	143	146
	<u>64</u>	<u>7,757</u>	<u>7,821</u>	<u>7,425</u>
2024 Total	<u>62</u>	<u>7,363</u>	<u>7,425</u>	

Included in Insurance Claims – RPA above is £46,874 (2024: £104,108) relating to the RPA insurance claim for Burnside as explained in the trustees' report. An equal amount of expenditure is included in note 7 relating to ground works and management consultancy fees.

Inspire Multi Academy Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025
(continued)

Analysis of Other DfE / ESFA grants

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Total 2024/25 £000	Total 2023/24 £000
Grants				
- Universal Infant Free School Meals	-	106	106	107
- Pupil Premium Grant	-	610	610	618
- Teacher Pay and Pension Grants	-	201	201	137
- National Insurance Contribution Grant	-	47	47	-
- PE and Sport Premium Grants	-	88	88	88
- Core Schools Budget Grant	-	192	192	-
- Mainstream Schools Add. Grant	-	-	-	176
- Rates Relief	-	24	24	36
- Other DfE Grants				
- Mental Health Lead / ECT Mentor / ECT Release / TSI Funding	-	25	25	13
	-	1,293	1,293	1,175

4 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Total 2024/25 £000	Total 2023/24 £000
Hire of facilities	9	-	9	11
Catering income	1	-	1	1
Other income	227	8	235	213
	237	8	245	225
2024 Total	216	9	225	

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Total 2024/25 £000	Total 2023/24 £000
Short term deposits	3	-	3	-
	-	-	-	-
2024 Total	-	-	-	

Inspire Multi Academy Trust

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

6 Expenditure

	Staff Costs £000	Non-Pay Expenditure		Total 2024/25 £000	Total 2023/24 £000
		Premises £000	Other £000		
Expenditure on raising funds:					
- Allocated support costs	51	-	15	66	70
Academy's educational operations:					
- Direct costs	5,032	-	898	5,930	5,735
- Allocated support costs	1,036	494	886	2,416	2,454
	<u>6,119</u>	<u>494</u>	<u>1,799</u>	<u>8,412</u>	<u>8,259</u>
2024 Total	5,857	628	1,774	8,259	

Net income / (expenditure) for the period includes:

	2024/25 £000	2023/24 £000
Operating leases rentals	6	6
Depreciation	366	383
Amortisation of intangible fixed assets (included within Charitable Activities – Academy trust educational operations)	12	13
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	15	15
- Other Services	2	1
	<u>401</u>	<u>418</u>

There are no individual transactions exceeding £5,000 included in resources expended in relation to ex-gratia / compensation payments, gifts made by the trust, fixed asset losses, stock losses, unrecoverable debts and cash losses.

7 Charitable Activities

	Total 2024/25 £000	Total 2023/24 £000
Direct costs – educational operations	5,930	5,735
Support costs – educational operations	2,416	2,454
	<u>8,346</u>	<u>8,189</u>
Analysis of support costs		
Support staff costs	1,036	994
Depreciation	10	9
Technology costs	39	41
Premises costs	494	529
Premises costs – Insurance claim Burnside	-	99
Legal costs - other	3	5
Other support costs	724	680
Governance costs	110	97
Total support costs	<u>2,416</u>	<u>2,454</u>

Inspire Multi Academy Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025
(continued)

8 Staff

a. Staff costs and employee benefits

Staff costs during the period were:

	2024/25 £000	2023/24 £000
Wages and salaries	4,387	4,285
Social security costs	479	418
Pension costs	1,013	923
Apprenticeship Levy	7	7
	<u>5,886</u>	<u>5,633</u>
Agency staff costs	239	230
Staff restructuring costs	-	1
	<u>6,125</u>	<u>5,864</u>
Staff restructuring costs comprise:		
Severance payments	-	1
	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>

b. Severance payments

The Academy Trust paid 1 severance payment in the year, disclosed in the following band:

£0 - £25,000 1

Included in staff restructuring costs is one contractual severance payment of £253 (2024: £565 (contractual)).

c. Staff numbers

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

	2024/25 No.	2023/24 No.
Teachers	50	51
Administration and support	90	91
Management	9	9
	<u>149</u>	<u>151</u>

Inspire Multi Academy Trust

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

d. Higher paid staff

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

	2024/25 No.	2023/24 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	4	5
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	2	3
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	4	2
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	1	-
In the band £160,001 - £170,000	1	1

The above employees participated in either the Teachers' Pension Scheme or Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).

e. 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 (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £336,683 (2024: £327,820).

9 Related Party Transactions – Trustees' Remuneration and Expenses

One or more trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from employment with the academy trust. The principal and other staff trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal and staff members under their contracts of employment.

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

Mrs J West (Chief Executive Headteacher and trustee):

Remuneration	£160,000 - £165,000 (2024: £160,000 - £165,000)
Employer's pension contributions paid	£45,000 - £50,000 (2024: £40,000 - £45,000)

During the period ended 31 August 2025, no travel and subsistence expenses were reimbursed or paid directly to trustees (2024: £0).

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out in note 28.

10 Central Services

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

- Educational Support Services
- Financial Support Services
- HR Support Services
- Governance Support Services
- Estates Safety and Management Support
- IT Support

The central services contribution is reviewed by Trustees annually. Academy budgets for 2024/25 were based on a 7% contribution.

Inspire Multi Academy Trust

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

(continued)

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2024/25 £000	2023/24 £000
Farringdon Academy	160	151
New Penshaw Academy	68	64
Plains Farm Academy	82	76
Burnside Academy	43	57
Fatfield Academy	77	73
	<u>430</u>	<u>421</u>

In addition to the Central Service charge above, Trust reserves have been used to support Academies within the financial year with approval from the Board of Trustees as further described in the funds note. Expenditure funded from reserves is reviewed by the Board of Trustees on a termly basis.

11 Trustees' and Officers' Insurance

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

12 Intangible Fixed Assets

	Licences £000	Total 2024/25 £000
Cost		
At 1 September 2024	34	34
Additions	-	-
Disposals	-	-
At 31 August 2025	<u>34</u>	<u>34</u>
Amortisation		
At 1 September 2024	11	11
Disposals	-	-
Charged in year	12	12
At 31 August 2025	<u>23</u>	<u>23</u>
Carrying Amount		
At 31 August 2024	23	23
At 31 August 2025	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>

Inspire Multi Academy Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025
(continued)

13 Tangible Fixed Assets

2024/25

	Leasehold Land and Buildings	Leasehold Improvements	Furniture and Equipment	Computer Equipment	Assets Under Construction	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cost						
At 1 September 2024	7,886	2,482	583	955	-	11,906
Additions	-	-	67	4	3	74
At 31 August 2025	7,886	2,482	650	959	3	11,980
Depreciation						
At 1 September 2024	1,521	289	278	748	-	2,836
Charged in year	154	50	57	105	-	366
At 31 August 2025	1,675	339	335	853	-	3,202
Net book values						
At 31 August 2024	6,365	2,193	305	207	-	9,070
At 31 August 2025	6,211	2,143	315	106	3	8,778

14 Stock

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Stationery	-	-

15 Debtors

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Trade debtors	6	3
VAT recoverable	117	261
Other debtors	3	5
Prepayments and accrued income	645	195
	<u>771</u>	<u>464</u>

Inspire Multi Academy Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025
(continued)

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£000	£000
Trade creditors	-	14
Other taxation and social security	212	187
Other Creditors	-	36
Accruals and deferred income	<u>225</u>	<u>240</u>
	<u>437</u>	<u>477</u>

Deferred income

	2025	2024
	£000	£000
Deferred Income at 1 September 2024	78	66
Resources deferred in the year	80	78
Amounts released from previous years	<u>(78)</u>	<u>(66)</u>
Deferred Income at 31 August 2025	<u>80</u>	<u>78</u>

At the balance sheet date the multi academy trust was holding funds received in advance - Universal Infant free School Meals £62,343 (2024: £62,675), Rates Relief of £14,248 (2024: £14,124), Greggs Breakfast Club £1,072 (2024: £1,075) and Contributions to Educational Visits £2,824 (2024: £0).

17 Creditors: amounts falling due in greater than one year

	2025	2024
	£000	£000
Other creditors	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Inspire Multi Academy Trust

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

(continued)

18 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2024	Income	Expenditure	Gains, Losses and Transfers	Balance at 31 August 2025
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	113	5,260	(5,236)	-	137
Pupil Premium	-	610	(610)	-	-
Catch up Premium	-	-	-	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA Covid-19 Funding	-	-	-	-	-
Other Covid-19 Funding	-	-	-	-	-
Other grants	-	1,761	(1,761)	-	-
Other income	-	130	(130)	-	-
Pension reserve	-	-	24	(24)	-
	113	7,761	(7,713)	(24)	137
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Transfer on conversion	6,374	-	(155)	-	6,219
DfE Group capital grants	1,837	599	(103)	-	2,333
Other Capital Grants	-	-	(2)	-	(2)
Capital expenditure from GAG	453	-	(64)	-	389
DfE Donated Assets	27	-	(21)	-	6
Other Income	430	47	(33)	5	449
	9,121	646	(378)	5	9,394
Total restricted funds	9,234	8,407	(8,091)	(19)	9,531
Total unrestricted funds	313	310	(321)	(5)	297
Total funds	9,547	8,717	(8,412)	(24)	9,828

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

General Annual Grant must be used for the normal running costs of the Academy.

Pupil Premium, other grants and other income which includes PE Grant, Teachers Pay and Pension Grants, National Insurance Contribution Grant, Special Needs, and Early Years Funding with the income being restricted to the terms of each funding stream.

Gross transfers totalling £5,572 have been made from the unrestricted general fund to the restricted fixed asset fund which represents capital expenditure.

Gross transfer of £13,325 has been made from the restricted general fund to the restricted fixed asset fund which represents capital expenditure.

Gross transfer of CIF funds of £13,645 have been made from the restricted fixed asset fund to the restricted general fund.

Capital Grant has been received for capital and related expenditure. Depreciation has been charged against assets within the Restricted Fixed Asset Fund. The transfer from Local Authority reflects fixed assets transferred on conversion along with surpluses on capital and revenue budgets at conversion.

The academy's restricted general and unrestricted funds total £434k at 31 August 2025.

Inspire Multi Academy Trust

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

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2025 were allocated as follows:

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Farringdon Academy	165	179
New Penshaw Academy	158	147
Plains Farm Academy	46	68
Burnside Academy	-	-
Fatfield Academy	65	32
Inspire Central Costs (excluding FRS102 pension transactions)	-	-
Total before fixed assets and pension reserve	<u>434</u>	<u>426</u>
Restricted fixed asset fund	9,394	9,121
Pension reserve	-	-
Total	<u>9,828</u>	<u>9,547</u>

An additional amount of £51,277 was used across the Trust to support reduction in pupil numbers at Burnside Academy and a reduction in planned income within Inspire budget.

The amounts from reserve Academy balances that have been used to support these costs are:

- Farringdon Academy: £19,557
- New Penshaw Academy: £18,634
- Plains Farm Academy: £5,442
- Fatfield Academy £7,635

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and Educational Support Staff Costs £000	Other Support Staff Costs £000	Educational Supplies £000	Other Costs (excluding Depreciation) £000	2024/25 Total £000	2023/24 Total £000
Farringdon Academy	1,665	257	79	480	2,481	2,383
New Penshaw Academy	756	111	28	238	1,133	1,195
Plains Farm Academy	838	188	71	292	1,389	1,273
Burnside Academy	687	158	38	233	1,116	1,203
Fatfield Academy	849	146	58	322	1,375	1,250
Inspire central costs (includes FRS102 pension transactions)	236	235	1	69	541	558
Academy Trust	<u>5,031</u>	<u>1,095</u>	<u>275</u>	<u>1,634</u>	<u>8,035</u>	<u>7,862</u>

Inspire Multi Academy Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025
(continued)

Comparative information in respect of the preceding period (to 31 August 2024) is as follows:

	Balance at 1 September 2023	Income	Expenditure	Gains, Losses and Transfers	Balance at 31 August 2024
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	78	4,975	(4,937)	(3)	113
Pupil Premium	-	618	(618)	-	-
Catch up Premium	-	-	-	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA Covid-19 Funding	-	58	(58)	-	-
Other Covid-19 Funding	-	-	-	-	-
Other grants	-	1,519	(1,519)	-	-
Other income	-	241	(480)	239	-
Pension reserve	-	-	17	(17)	-
	78	7,411	(7,595)	219	113
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Transfer on conversion	6,529	-	(155)	-	6,374
DfE Group capital grants	1,909	32	(104)	-	1,837
Other Capital Grants	-	-	(2)	2	-
Capital expenditure from GAG	522	-	(71)	2	453
DfE Donated Assets	60	-	(33)	-	27
Other Income	426	2	(31)	33	430
	9,446	34	(396)	37	9,121
Total restricted funds	9,524	7,445	(7,991)	256	9,234
Total unrestricted funds	572	282	(268)	(273)	313
Total funds	10,096	7,727	(8,259)	(17)	9,547

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2025 are represented by:

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted General Funds £000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £000	Total Funds £000
Intangible fixed assets	-	-	11	11
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	8,778	8,778
Current assets	298	570	608	1,476
Current liabilities	(1)	(433)	(3)	(437)
Pension scheme liability	-	-	-	-
Total net assets	297	137	9,394	9,828

Inspire Multi Academy Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025
(continued)

Comparative information in respect of the preceding period (at 31 August 2024) is as follows:

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted General Funds £000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £000	Total Funds £000
Intangible fixed assets	-	-	23	23
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	9,070	9,070
Current assets	314	583	34	931
Current liabilities	(1)	(470)	(6)	(477)
Pension scheme liability	-	-	-	-
Total net assets	313	113	9,121	9,547

20 Capital Commitments

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Contracted for, but not provided in the financial statements	-	-

21 Operating Leases

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

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Amounts due within one year	4	6
Amounts due between one and five years	11	9
	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>

22 Reconciliation of Net Income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024/25 £000	2023/24 £000
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	305	(532)
Adjusted for:		
Amortisation (note 12)	12	13
Depreciation (note 13)	366	383
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(646)	(34)
Interest receivable (note 5)	(3)	-
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable (note 27)	(17)	(10)
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost (note 27)	(7)	(7)
Defined benefit pension scheme settlement cost (note 27)	-	-
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	-	-
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(307)	55
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(37)	(241)
Net cash provided by / (used in) Operating Activities	<u>(334)</u>	<u>(373)</u>

Inspire Multi Academy Trust

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

23 Cash flows from financing activities

	2024/25 £000	2023/24 £000
Repayments of borrowing	-	-
Cash inflows from new borrowing	-	-
Net cash provided by / (used in) financing activities	-	-

24 Cash flows from investing activities

	2024/25 £000	2023/24 £000
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	3	-
Purchase of intangible fixed assets	-	(34)
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(77)	(55)
Capital grants from DfE Group	599	32
Capital funding received from sponsors and others	47	2
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities	572	(55)

25 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Cash in hand and at bank	705	467
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	-	-
Total cash and cash equivalents	705	467

26 Members' Liability

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

27 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 South Tyneside 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.

There were no outstanding or prepaid contributions at the end of the financial year (2024: £0).

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

Inspire Multi Academy Trust

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

(continued)

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £758,275 (2024: £656,036).

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 pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the period ended 31 August 2025 was £366,129 (2024: £375,953), of which employer's contributions totalled £273,798 (2024: £279,719) and employees' contributions totalled £92,331 (2024: £96,234). The agreed contribution rates for future years is 18% for employers and 5.5% - 12.5% for employees.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of academy 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 (% per annum)

	2025	2024
Rate of increase in salaries	4.0%	4.0%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.5%	2.5%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	6.0%	4.9%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.5%	2.5%
Commutation of pensions to lump sums	75.0%	75.0%

Inspire Multi Academy Trust

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

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

<i>Retiring today</i>	2025	2024
Males	21.2	20.8
Females	24.2	24.0

<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	22.1	21.7
Females	25.3	25.1

Sensitivity analysis	2025	2024
	£000	£000
Discount rate +0.1%	5,877	6,728
Discount rate -0.1%	6,105	7,023
Mortality assumption – 1 year increase	5,865	6,700
Mortality assumption – 1 year decrease	6,117	7,044
CPI rate +0.1%	6,009	6,893
CPI rate -0.1%	5,973	6,851

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

	2025	2024
	£000	£000
Equities	4,266	4,077
Corporate bonds	1,599	1,514
Property	980	846
Government bonds	88	98
Cash	106	65
Multi Asset Credit	397	366
Other	1,396	1,172
Unrecognised asset	(2,841)	(1,266)
Total market value of assets	5,991	6,872

The actual gain on scheme assets was £492,000 (2024: £709,000).

Amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities

	2024/25	2023/24
	£000	£000
Current service cost	(254)	(287)
Past service cost	-	-
Settlement cost	-	-
Interest income	404	364
Interest cost	(397)	(357)
Total amount recognised in the SOFA	(247)	(280)

Inspire Multi Academy Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025
(continued)

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

	2024/25 £000	2023/24 £000
At 1 September	6,872	6,296
Current service cost	254	287
Interest cost	335	315
Employee contributions	96	98
Actuarial (gain) / loss	(1,401)	(27)
Benefits paid	(165)	(97)
Past service cost	-	-
Settlements	-	-
At 31 August	5,991	6,872

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

	2024/25 £000	2023/24 £000
At 1 September	8,138	7,131
Interest income	404	364
Actuarial gain/(loss)	88	345
Employer contributions	271	297
Employee contributions	96	98
Benefits paid	(165)	(97)
Settlements	-	-
Unrecognised asset	(2,841)	(1,266)
At 31 August	5,991	6,872

28 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. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook, including notifying the DfE of all transactions made on or after 1 April 2019 and obtaining their approval where required, and with the academy trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures relating to connected and related party transactions. The following related party transactions took place in the financial period.

Expenditure Related Party Transaction

Miss M Brown (Chastney), daughter of Mr H Brown (a trustee), is employed by Inspire Multi Academy Trust and was employed at New Penshaw Academy. Miss Brown was appointed in open competition through a competitive interview process by a recruitment panel. Mr Brown was not involved in the decision-making process regarding the appointment.