

Company registration number 10954886 (England and Wales)

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

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SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members

R Laurie
N McCulloch (left 31 January 2025)
K Tighe
E Dorling

Trustees

C Carlisle (Accounting Officer)
J Coombes
S Gerrard
J Hinch (Resigned 2 October 2024)
L Holland (Chair)
M Crane
P Kirk
L Tasker
H Benn (Appointed 7 May 2025)
J Stafford (Appointed 1 September 2025)

Soke Education Trust Senior Management Team

- Chief Executive Officer	C Carlisle
- Chief Operations & Finance Officer	J Sumner
- Director of Education	E Crane
- Headteacher - Werrington	R Simmons
- Headteacher - Wittering	C Blake
- Headteacher - Gunthorpe	C Scales
- Headteacher - Alderman Jacobs School	M Fry
- Headteacher - John Clare	S Nicolson
- Headteacher - Northborough	A Pattison

Company registration number

10954886 (England and Wales)

Principal and registered office

Gunthorpe Primary School
The Pentlands
Peterborough
PE4 7YP

Academies operated

Werrington Primary School
Gunthorpe Primary School
Wittering Primary School
John Clare Primary School
Northborough Primary School
Alderman Jacobs School

Location

Peterborough
Peterborough
Wittering
Helpston
Peterborough
Whittlesey

Principal

R Simmons
C Scales
C Blake
S Nicolson
A Pattison
M Fry

Independent auditor

Azets Audit Services
Westpoint
Lynch Wood
Peterborough
Cambridgeshire
PE2 6FZ
United Kingdom

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Bankers

Lloyds Bank
27-31 Westgate
Peterborough
PE1 1YH
United Kingdom

Solicitors

Greenwoods Legal LLP
Monkstone House
City Road
Peterborough
PE1 1JE
United Kingdom

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year September 2024 to August 2025. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

Until 1st September 2023 the Trust operated five primary Academies across Peterborough with Alderman Jacobs School now part of the organisation. Across six schools, Soke Education Trust has a combined pupil capacity of 1899.

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 Soke Education Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. Details of the trustees who served during the year, and to the date these financial statements 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

In accordance with normal commercial practice the Trust has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Trust business. The insurance provides cover up to £10,000,000 on any one claim.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of trustees

The Trust Board shall comprise of Trustees or Directors of the Trust. The number of Trustees shall be not less than three but (unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution) shall not be subject to any maximum. All Trustees on their appointment or election give a written undertaking to the Trustees to uphold the objects of the Trust.

The company shall have the following Trustees:

- up to 8 Trustees,
- the Chief Executive Officer,
- and a minimum of 2 Parent Trustees elected in the event that no Local Governing Bodies are established.

The Members make any appointment of Trustees following a recruitment and selection process undertaken by the Trustees. This is based on a skills audit and suitable candidates' application is via a curriculum vitae/ expression of interest and informal interview.

The Articles outline that the Trustees may appoint committees to be known as Local Governance Committees for each school.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

The training and induction provided for new Trustees will depend on their existing experience. Where necessary, induction will provide training on charity, educational, legal and financial matters.

All Trustees are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as Trustees. As there are normally few new Trustees in a year, induction tends to be done informally and is tailored specifically to the individual.

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Organisational structure

Each constituent school has a Local Governing Body known as the Local Governance Committee to which the Trust Board delegates certain responsibilities to its committees including local governance, via the approved Trust scheme of delegation.

Soke Education Trust is a Multi-Academy Trust consisting of six constituent schools, namely:

- Alderman Jacobs School
- Gunthorpe Primary School
- John Clare Primary School
- Northborough Primary School
- Werrington Primary School
- Wittering Primary School

Five of these schools, before conversion to Academy status were local authority schools. Alderman Jacobs School was a Single Academy Trust prior to joining Soke Education Trust. The Trust has acted as sponsor for Gunthorpe Primary School since its conversion to the Trust on 1st January 2018.

The composition of each Local Governance Committee is determined by the Trust board in consultation with the school and reflects key stakeholders of the school in its membership.

In 2024/5 the Trust charged Group 1 schools 4% and all Group 2 and above schools 6% of its General Annual Grant (GAG) to pay for services provided by the Central Trust team. Historically, the Local Governance Committee had responsibility for the financial management of their school. However, in 2022, following a recommendation from an SRMA review, the Trust revised its scheme of delegation so that oversight of school financial management became sole the responsibility of the Trust Board providing greater consistency and accuracy of financial management.

The Trust Board meets ten times a year to monitor the finances and educational progress of the pupils within each constituent school. The Trust Board has three sub-committees: the Audit & Risk, Finance & People and an Achievement & Curriculum Committee. Each committee meets three times a year to review in detail each constituent school. The role of the committee is to maintain an oversight of the Trust's finances, governance, risk management, people strategy, internal control and value-for-money framework. It reports its findings at each meeting of the Trust Board. The Achievement & Curriculum committee supports improvement of the trust's schools, using data to drive challenge. The role of the Local Governance Committee of each school is to monitor standards, safeguarding, staff and pupil wellbeing on behalf of the Trust.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

Pay has been set down through the School Teachers Pay and Conditions Document. The proposed changes to each of the pay spines have been approved across all the pay ranges and allowances for the September 2024/25 pay award are set out in the STPC Document 2024. Decisions about teachers' pay progression must be linked to the Performance Management Policy and are based on criteria set out in the School's Pay Policy. The Pay Body will operate the Pay Policy as the 'relevant body', as defined in the STPC Document, and for the pay arrangements agreed for all the support staff which will:

- grade posts appropriately within the conditions of employment identified in the current STPC Document and the conditions of service for support staff employed by the Pay Body.
- take into account pay relativities between posts within the teachers of the Pay Body and support staff of the Pay Body.
- ensure that the annual appraisal of all teacher staff, including those absent from duty for any reason, is fairly and properly conducted in accordance with the School's Appraisal Policy as soon as possible, by 31 October at the latest; 31 December for the Headteacher in every school year.
- Use the NJC19 salary scales

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period

-

Full-time equivalent employee number

-

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time

Number of employees

0%

-

1%-50%

-

51%-99%

-

100%

-

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Total cost of facility time

-

Total pay bill

-

Percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time

-

Paid trade union activities

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

-

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

The Trust is connected to two other charities:

- Friends of Alderman Jacobs School (Charity number 1150547)
- Friends of John Clare (Charity number 1167008)
- Werrington Primary School PTA (Charity number 1106393)

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

Soke Education Trust was established on 1 January 2018, set up as three founding schools, Werrington, Wittering and John Clare Primary, all within the Local Authority of Peterborough. During the process the Trust was asked to become a Sponsor for Gunthorpe Primary and therefore the Trust was established from inception with four schools. Northborough Primary joined the Trust on 1 September 2019 with Alderman Jacobs joining on 1 September 2023.

The Trust is deliberately a Primary focused Multi Academy Trust and the schools within the Trust are able to share best practice, staffing expertise and common experiences within the Primary sector. The schools within the Trust also share common values, placing learners at the centre of everything that they do. With ambitions to Strive for high achievement, Explore the world we live in and Transform the life opportunities for all. Each school retains its own school identity.

Schools are led by the Headteacher and monitored by the Chief Executive Officer and the Local Governance Committee, we recognise the vast array of positive qualities and strengths within each of our schools. Working together and drawing upon this wealth of talent ensures that we provide the very best learning opportunities and enrichment for our pupils. The Scheme of Delegation enables the Local Governance Committees of each school within the Trust, to ensure they can maintain their unique ethos and values.

The Trust works collaboratively using expertise held within the Trust to share best practice. Aiming to drive down costs through collective purchasing, investment in school estates, greater flexibility with staffing resources and career development. Over time, as we grow, it is anticipated that greater centralisation of services will ensure increased efficiencies and internal expertise in specific areas, allowing school management to focus on teaching and improving learning outcomes for pupils.

The Rationale

The Trust was formed to enable founding schools to take control of their own destiny, improving the education standards within their schools. With ever-decreasing budgets and increasing costs, the Trust has to focus on achieving value for money, efficiency savings and building a robust business model for the future. To achieve strong financial sustainability for our schools, the board would look to grow to 10 schools but also recognises growth potential through the extension of services such as pre-school provision and wrap around care. The Executive Team and Headteachers will be held accountable for improving and sustaining the education of our pupils to deliver our strategic aims.

Trust Strategic Objectives 2023-2025

Soke Education Trust sets its strategic goals in alignment with the five pillars of quality:

- High Quality & Inclusive Education
- School Improvement
- Workforce
- Finance & Operations
- Governance & Leadership

1. High Quality & Inclusive Education -

Soke Education Trust provide the best education for all Trust pupils, of all abilities and backgrounds. We do this by:

- Develop a culture of outstanding performance that leads to academic excellence
- Ensure the best resources, skills and processes are used across the Trust so that all children including those with additional needs or in receipt of pupil premium, make at least expected progress.
- Design & implement a curriculum that is ambitious and knowledge rich so that children achieve at least in line with national expectations each year

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

2. School Improvement

Within this priority our key objectives are:

- Implement and monitor shared approaches to teaching, learning & assessment in line with the Trust Improvement strategy
- Provide high quality CPD & support to develop leaders & teachers so they can effectively deliver the Trust Strategy
- Ensure all schools are judged at least Good in 80% of the areas by Ofsted by 2027

3. Workforce

Our people strategy is built on the objectives:

- Leadership at all levels, in every school, demonstrates excellence
- Staff feel valued and understand how they contribute individually & collectively to the wider goals and successes of the organisation
- Ensure exceptional performance and achievements are recognised and reward
- Ensure the workforce remain healthy and have a manageable workload regardless of their job role

4. Finance & Operations

Our objectives are:

- Ensure prudent financial management is linked to ICFP metrics and leads to school improvement and pupils achieving at least as well as national outcomes
- Develop a growth strategy that increases pupil numbers and schools who want to join the trust
- Ensure schools have good estate management

5. Governance & Leadership

- Ensure appropriate segregation of duties at board level, promoting an enhanced level of rigour in relation to school achievement and curriculum related
- Ensure that LGCs have a clear focus, purpose and impact on the education of children at their particular school
- Ensure that there is sufficient 'evidence of governance' at all levels of the Trust
- Ensure that all governors and trustees have sufficient opportunities to access training and development opportunities, pertinent to their particular roles and responsibilities

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, "Charities and Public Benefit".

The Trust's public benefit is incorporated in its objectives, which are detailed on the Principal Activities section of this accounts report. The Trust considers that the Trust's aims are demonstrable to the public benefit. The Trust's aim is to advance, for the public benefit, the education of pupils in Peterborough and surrounding areas, in particular, but without prejudice to, the generality of the foregoing, by estimating, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing schools, offering a broad curriculum.

Schools within the Trust provide facilities for recreational and other leisure time occupation for the community at large, in the interests of social welfare and with the interest of improving the life of the community.

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

The schools across the Trust have focused on developing their curriculum to ensure that it helps children to know, do and remember more across all subjects. The curriculum ensures children revisit key concepts across each subject. Assessment across the schools has been reviewed and a shared approach has been developed with moderation opportunities across all schools. The Trust has developed its central team so that it can offer greater school improvement support and continuous professional development especially in the key areas such as writing approaches, curriculum development and moderation. This is supporting both schools judged as Requires improvement and those who are Good and are continuing to improve. During the year, two schools were inspected by Ofsted and judged to be Good. This is the grading for five out of the six schools and Trust support has been identified as being effective at supporting the schools.

Results at the end of the year were mixed with some schools receiving lower attainment results. Following end of year outcomes, writing has been identified as a key subject determiner with phonics requiring further support in some areas of the trust. Leaders across the Trust are working collaboratively to improve skills and knowledge in writing so that children's combined outcomes improve rapidly.

EYFS GLD	
National	68.5%
Alderman Jacobs	62%
Gunthorpe	59%
John Clare	79%
Northborough	71%
Werrington	63%
Wittering	76%
Trust Aggregate	68.3% +7.3%
P'boro Sch Aggregate	69.6% +8.2

Phonics	Y1	Y2
National	81%	
Alderman Jacobs	82%	83%
Gunthorpe	80%	76%
John Clare	75%	100%
Northborough	90%	96%
Werrington	72%	88%
Wittering	64%	88%
Trust Aggregate	77.2% -2%	88.5% +5%
P'boro Sch Aggregate	76.2% -2.4	89.6 +1.1

MTC Average		
National	Average 38%	25/25 21
Alderman Jacobs	36	21
Gunthorpe	20	20.5
John Clare	55	23
Northborough	48	22.6
Werrington	68	23
Wittering	11	19
Trust Aggregate	39.6% -1.4	21.5 +0.3
P'boro Sch Aggregate	40.4% +19.3	

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

KS2										
National	Reading	Writing	Maths	RWM	GPS	Reading	Writing	Maths	RWM	GPS
	EKS	EKS	EKS	EKS	EKS	GDS	GDS	GDS	GDS	GDS
	75%	72%	74%	62%	73%	33%	13%	26%	8%	30%
Alderman Jacobs	76%	76%	73%	65%	59%	22%	11%	20%	4%	9%
Gunthorpe	63%	54%	59%	43%	59%	18%	0%	11%	0%	18%
John Clare	91%	95%	95%	91%	86%	45%	27%	45%	18%	41%
Northborough	81%	87%	87%	74%	87%	21%	6%	45%	6%	35%
Werrington	75%	61%	73%	56%	76%	22%	0%	17%	0%	17%
Wittering	72%	61%	77%	57%	85%	26%	6%	21%	4%	32%
Trust Aggregate	76.3%	73.5%	77.3%	64.3	75.3%					
	+5.7	+7.7	+4.5	+7.7	+8.8					
P'boro Sch	76.4	71.6	78.2	64.2	78.6					
Aggregate	+4.2	+7.4	+4.8	+7.6	+3.3					

Key Performance Indicators

The Trust regularly monitors the performance of all Trust schools. The key performance indicators that have been selected reflect the strategic and operational priorities of the trust.

- End of Key Stage data is in line with National Outcomes
- Schools are graded as Good in all areas and have a plan on how this will be achieved.
- Each school should have a pupil attendance rate of at least 95%.
- Total expenditure on core administrative staff posts as a percentage of core income in line with national benchmarks
- 3 year balanced budget is delivered

Risks

Each school maintains and regularly reviews its risk registers which feed into the Trust risk register. This is reviewed and monitored at the AFRP Committee and annually at Board.

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the schools within the Trust have 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 accounting policies note of the financial statements.

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Financial review

Most of the school's income is obtained from the Department for Education (DfE) in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE during the period ended 31 August 2025 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the statement of financial activities.

During the period, the schools within the Trust received total funding of £14,939,133 compared to total resources expended of £15,104,164 to give a deficit for the period of £165,031.

The Trust has £12,790,913 in accumulated reserves carried forward.

The Trustees consider an appropriate level of reserves to be 8% of GAG, to insulate the Trust in the event of DfE funding becoming interrupted carry forward level of reserves at August 2025 is well in excess of this level.

Reserves policy

The Trust's 'free' reserves are its funds after excluding restricted funds. 'Reserves' are therefore the resources the Trust has or can make available to spend for any or all of the Trust's purposes once it has met its commitments and covered its other planned expenditure. More specifically 'free reserves' represent income which is to be spent at the Trustees' discretion in furtherance of any of the Trust's objects, but which is not yet spent, committed or designated.

The Trustees intend to review the reserve levels of the Trust annually. This review will encompass the nature of income and expenditure streams. The reserves policy determines that the appropriate level of free reserves that the trust should hold will be a minimum of 10% and a maximum of 17% of its annual GAG approximately £971,592 - £1,651,707. The rationale for this is that GAG income in the most consistent and reliable form of funding for academies. The Trust's current level of free reserves, which is represented by unrestricted general funds plus GAG funds, is £1,753,356 (2024 - £2,042,498). The Trustees are aware that the current level of reserves is in excess of the policy but have a plan to invest in the fabric of the school sites to improve their condition.

The level of restricted funds at the period end, excluding the restricted fixed asset fund; and the pension reserve, amounted to £636,530.

The current level of free reserves is within the reserves policy and is maintained because of the lower pupil rolls in some schools and unknown funding predictions for 2026 and beyond. The Trustees are taking a conservative approach in order to offset any potential deficits. The Trust board are under taking a review of their long-term finances in conjunction with their reserves policy so that these reflect their financial climate.

Investment policy

Soke Education Trust aims to spend public monies with which it has been entrusted for the direct educational benefit of pupils as soon as is prudent. The Trustees do not consider the investment of surplus funds as a primary activity, rather than as a good result of sound financial management as and when circumstances allow.

The Trust aims to manage its cash balances to provide for the day-to-day working capital requirements of its operations, whilst protecting the real long-term value of any surplus cash balances against inflation. In addition, the Trust aims to invest surplus cash funds in higher interest accounts to optimise returns, but ensuring the investment instruments are such that there is no risk to the loss of these cash funds. The Trust liaises with its partnership advisor at its bank to ensure that it uses money as effectively as possible.

The Trust's finance team supports schools to prepare budgets and cash flow forecasts to ensure viability and sustainability for the activities of each school.

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Principal risks and uncertainties

The Trustees of Soke Education Trust have overall responsibility and ultimate decision-making authority for all the work of the Company, including the establishing and running of schools. This is largely exercised through strategic planning and the setting of policy. It is managed through business planning, monitoring of budgets, performance management, the setting of standards and the implementation of quality management processes. The Trustees have the power to direct change where required.

The Trustees have delegated authority for the running of each of the constituent schools to the Local Governance Committees, who in turn also fulfil a largely strategic role in their conduct of the schools by further delegating authority to a Headteacher and senior management team. They are responsible for the internal organisation, management and control of the school on a day-to-day basis.

Based on the above process, the Audit & Risk Committee undertakes a comprehensive review of the risks to which the Trust is exposed by regularly reviewing the risk management policy and risk register. The committee identifies systems and procedures, including specific preventable actions, which should mitigate any potential negative impact on any of the individual schools.

The internal controls for managing risks deemed as medium and high are incorporated into an annual risk management action plan. The effectiveness of the Trust's internal controls in managing the risks identified is regularly monitored.

A thorough appraisal will be undertaken in the year of the existing risks and any emerging risks, for example, those arising from changes to national funding policy and/or local circumstances. In addition to the annual review, the Audit & Risk Committee will also consider any risks which arise during the year, for example, as a result of a new area of work being undertaken by the Trust.

A risk register, covering low, medium and high-level risks, is maintained at Trust level. The risk register identifies the key risks, the likelihood of those risks occurring, their potential impact on the Trust and the actions being taken to reduce and mitigate the risks. Risks are prioritised as low, medium and high using a consistent scoring system.

There are specific risks that impact the Trust's ability to ensure the estate is safe, well-maintained and complies with legislation. Funding and accessibility to capital grants is one area of risk. Due to rising costs, Devolved Capital Formula (DFC) means that funds for small repairs and refurbishment projects are limited. The Trust is largely managing this risk by looking to access the Condition Improvement Fund (CIF). Soke has established a relationship with a bid writing organisation which has proved fruitful, successfully attracting bids for several schools in the Trust during the year.

The Trust further manages risk by ensuring it has high quality systems for recording and reporting issues and by scheduling compliance activities. The Trust engages the services of an external health and safety provider, which ensures access to a high-quality Responsible Person to oversee our Health and Safety activities, an annual audit of all sites and ongoing support and advice.

The Trust has employed a Chief Operating & Finance Officer who supports school team in driving forward improvements in this area..

The Trust's approach to risk management raises awareness of risk throughout the whole of the Trust. In addition, Headteachers incorporate risk management in their reports and school improvement plans.

Principal risk factors that may affect the Trust include reduction in pupil numbers, changes in leadership, school funding and lack of growth opportunities. However, not all factors are within the Trust's control and other factors besides those listed below may also adversely affect the Trust.

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1. Inflation/cost of living increases

The Trust continues to face inflationary pressures with costs remaining high. The Trust has embarked on several CIF bids across its schools which will have an indirect impact on the energy usage by those schools.

As a response to the Governments review of the STPCD the trust has implemented the pay increase to all teaching grades and support staff job roles

The Trust will mitigate the increasing costs within its budgets by ensuring:

- schools and the central Trust will have a rigorous approach in agreeing staffing structures
- explore greater collaboration across its school to identify potential savings
- strategically using schools reserves to mitigate shortfalls in funding levels

The Trust also recognises the risk that the continued cost of living has on recruitment and retention of staff, in particular its support staff, if the Trust cannot offer salaries that are competitive with other industries.

2. Government funding

The Trust has considerable reliance on continued government funding through the Department for Education (DfE) and the Local Authority. Proposals for future funding levels remain short of expected increases in costs due to a reduction in pupil numbers and inflation.

This risk has and will be mitigated in a number of ways:

- The Trust is engaged with Integrated Curriculum Led Financial Planning (ICFP) to ensure that its structures remain appropriate and influences strategic planning in a changing environment
- The Trust seeks opportunities to reduce costs through increased collaboration of staff and staffing structures that promote staff-sharing models.
- Benchmarking school and central team structures against national benchmarks.
- Undertaken an SRMA review
- Reviewed its governance systems and structures through an external audit
- Carried out external reviews of the use of its pupil premium funding

3. Pupil Numbers

The Trust seeks to maintain its popularity within each school, with current and prospective pupils by:

- Ensuring the school delivers high-quality education and training;
- Maintaining and improving its success rates and good inspection outcomes;
- Investing in its teaching staff, resources and the physical environment.
- Improving the marketing activity of both the trust and its constituent schools to celebrate the strength of the trust across the board.
- Providing transition packs for Early Years pupils and in-year transfer

With ongoing commitment to quality, the Trust provides up-to-date and well-resourced learning environments including resources that support and enrich a broad curriculum, technology and mobile technology resources are deployed widely ensuring good pupil access. There has been a significant investment in Early Years provision with all schools having the outdoor learning areas upgraded.

This places the Trust in a good position to attract new pupils into its schools.

Fundraising

The Trust is compliant with the recognised standards of fundraising set out in the Code of Fundraising Practice. These funds are raised through sponsorship and donations; there is no obligation for any child/parent to donate. All funds/donations collected are given to the relevant charity in a timely manner.

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Streamlined energy and carbon reporting

As a small Trust we are not required to report on emissions, energy consumption or energy efficient activities, but this is something we have started to monitor this year. Electricity is included for all of our schools and gas for 5 out of 6, the other having a biomass boiler.

Plans for future periods

The Trust exploits opportunities afforded by conversion to academy status. This is achieved by utilising increased financial resources and governance freedoms to improve further the standard of teaching and learning but also, importantly, to improve the Trust estate.

Pupil and sport premium has enabled each school to continue to work towards closing the achievement gap for disadvantaged pupils, with focused activity planned in each constituent school.

Schools across the Trust employ professional support in the development of plans for submission to the Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) for the improvement of buildings where conditions are substandard.

The Trust would like to expand and grow the number of schools and as such has made a number of presentations to local schools with a common interest. The trust has documents for supporting schools who may express an interest in joining and offers a due diligence process, prior to conversion. The Trust also looks to expand through the provision of pre-schools.

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

There are no funds held as Custodian Trustee on behalf of others.

Auditor

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

A resolution proposing that Azets Audit Services be reappointed as auditor of the charitable company will be put to the members.

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 10/12/25 and signed on its behalf by:



L Holland

Chair

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Scope of responsibility

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

As Trustees, we have reviewed and taken account of the guidance in the DfE's governance handbook and the competency framework for governors. It is intended that this is now done on an annual basis.

Since 1 September 2022 Cathy Carlisle has assumed responsibility as Accounting Officer for the Trust. The Accounting Officer has responsibility 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 Soke Education Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Trust Board any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' responsibilities. The Trust Board has formally met 4 times during the period. Attendance during the period at meetings of the Trust Board was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
C Carlisle (Accounting Officer)	4	4
J Coombes	2	4
S Gerrard	3	4
J Hinch (Resigned 2 October 2024)	0	0
L Holland (Chair)	4	4
M Crane	1	4
P Kirk	3	4
L Tasker	4	4
H Benn (Appointed 7 May 2025)	0	1
J Stafford (Appointed 1 September 2025)	0	0

At Soke Education Trust the Trustees are responsible for financial governance. The board has recruited new Trustees, based on skills, to continue to support its work. Following a review of governance the Trust have investigated ways to ensure that Local Governance Committees also have oversight of key financial aspects so that this information can be used to enhance the monitoring and effectiveness of education in each school and have explored further ways to ensure a joined up approach to governance. This includes meetings between the Chairs of Local Committees, Safeguarding Governor Network group and whole Trust Strategy sessions. The Members are provided with a mid-year overview of the progress of the organisation.

The Trust budget is approved by the Trust Board annually with the management and review of this being delegated to a subcommittee with responsibility for financial matters.

Each year the board evaluates its effectiveness through a skills audit and receives training to support its work.

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Governance reviews

In 2024 the Trust completed an external review. The findings of this review were shared at all levels of governance and has been influential in the strategic development of the organisation.

At Trust Board and the local layer of governance, an annual skills & competency audit is undertaken. This is analysed by the Governance Professional team. Training and peer support is implemented to ensure continuous improvement and development.

Review of value for money

As Accounting Officer Cathy Carlisle, CEO has responsibility for ensuring that the 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 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 where available. The Accounting Officer for the academy Trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- identifying cost savings when purchasing resources
- identified savings that could be made by purchasing as a Trust
- review of all contracts across the whole Trust
- re-tendering for the Trust longer term and high-value contracts

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Trust's 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 Soke Education Trust for the period ended 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to handle risk

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the 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 Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees, who also nominates specific areas to deep dive.

The risk and control framework

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Trust Board;
- regular reviews by the Audit, Finance 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 and capital investment guidelines.
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- identification and management of risks.

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

The Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided:

In the 2024/25 year bought in an internal audit service from Greenhill Independent Audit & Assurance Services. The report findings are shared with and monitored by the Audit & Risk Committee

During the period, at mid-year, the Internal Auditor reported to the Board of Trustees on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities and prepared a summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess progress.

The 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 income received and charging policy
- testing of purchase systems
- testing of expenditure systems including reviewing procurement and capital contracts
- testing expenses claims and gifts, tendering processes and review of restricted funds
- testing of control account/ bank reconciliations
- reviewing for fraud
- payroll and recruitment processes
- fixed assets and VAT
- review of Trustees and Governance – roles, committees and terms of reference
- pecuniary interests, clerking, related party, induction and training
- statutory accounts and returns
- budget management
- general finance systems

Any issues identified are immediately rectified.

Moving forward Internal Scrutiny will continue as above, carried out by a company independent of that completing External Audit function and preparation of year-end accounts.

The proposed schedule of works for the Internal Scrutiny has been completed during the year. A report has been made to the Board of Trustees and shared with each school. There have been no significant control issues found.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 10/12/25 and signed on its behalf by:



C Carlisle
Accounting Officer



L Holland
Chair

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

As accounting officer of Soke Education 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 the Department for Education (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.



C Carlisle
Accounting Officer

Date: 10/12/25

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

The trustees (who are also the directors of Soke Education Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 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 judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

The trustees are responsible for ensuring that in its conduct and operation the charitable company applies financial and other controls, which conform with the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring that 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 10/12/25 and signed on its behalf by:


L Holland
Chair

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Soke Education Trust for the year ended 31 August 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, 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 Department for Education.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- 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 financial statements' section of our report. We are independent of the academy trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF SOKE EDUCATION TRUST (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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 financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; 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 financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

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.

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF SOKE EDUCATION TRUST (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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;
- 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.

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.



Mr Mark Jackson FCA DChA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of Azets Audit Services, Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants

Westpoint
Lynch Wood
Peterborough
Cambridgeshire
PE2 6FZ
United Kingdom

Date: 16.12.2025

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON REGULARITY TO SOKE EDUCATION 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 4 July 2025 and further to the requirements of the Department for Education (DfE) as included in the extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether anything has come to our attention that would suggest, in all material respects, the expenditure disbursed and income received by Soke Education Trust during the period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 have not been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of the accounting officer of Soke Education Trust and the reporting accountant

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

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

Approach

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- a review of the activities of the academy, by reference to sources of income and other information available to us;
- sample testing of expenditure, including payroll;
- a review of Trustee's meetings.

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON REGULARITY TO SOKE EDUCATION TRUST AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Conclusion

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



Reporting Accountant

Azets Audit Services
Westpoint
Lynch Wood
Peterborough
Cambridgeshire
PE2 6FZ
United Kingdom

Date: 16.12.2025

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	38,038	-	1,632,843	1,670,881	2,378,524
Donations - transfer of existing academy into the trust		-	-	-	-	3,466,824
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	262,882	12,660,719	-	12,923,601	12,765,844
Other trading activities	5	266,009	-	-	266,009	80,328
Investments	6	78,642	-	-	78,642	22,125
Total		645,571	12,660,719	1,632,843	14,939,133	18,713,645
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	8	820,404	12,489,404	1,794,356	15,104,164	15,662,661
Total	7	820,404	12,489,404	1,794,356	15,104,164	15,662,661
Net income/(expenditure)		(174,833)	171,315	(161,513)	(165,031)	3,050,984
Transfers between funds	19	-	(324,261)	324,261	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	24	-	2,159,000	-	2,159,000	1,979,000
Adjustment for restriction on pension assets	24	-	(1,519,000)	-	(1,519,000)	(1,605,000)
Net movement in funds		(174,833)	487,054	162,748	474,969	3,424,984
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		1,373,930	149,476	10,792,538	12,315,944	8,890,960
Total funds carried forward		1,199,097	636,530	10,955,286	12,790,913	12,315,944

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Comparative year information		Unrestricted	Restricted funds:		Total
Year ended 31 August 2024		funds	General	Fixed asset	2024
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	15,648	-	2,362,876	2,378,524
Donations - transfer of existing academy into the trust		475,794	229,125	2,761,905	3,466,824
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	439,400	12,326,444	-	12,765,844
Other trading activities	5	80,328	-	-	80,328
Investments	6	11,989	10,136	-	22,125
Total		1,023,159	12,565,705	5,124,781	18,713,645
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	8	356,322	12,347,667	2,958,672	15,662,661
Total	7	356,322	12,347,667	2,958,672	15,662,661
Net income		666,837	218,038	2,166,109	3,050,984
Transfers between funds	19	-	(260,175)	260,175	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	24	-	1,979,000	-	1,979,000
Adjustment for restriction on pension assets	24	-	(1,605,000)	-	(1,605,000)
Net movement in funds		666,837	331,863	2,426,284	3,424,984
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		707,093	(182,387)	8,366,254	8,890,960
Total funds carried forward		1,373,930	149,476	10,792,538	12,315,944

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Fixed assets					
Intangible assets	14		7,740		9,900
Tangible assets	15		10,301,618		10,385,528
			<u>10,309,358</u>		<u>10,395,428</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	16	628,361		588,017	
Investments		2,686		2,686	
Cash at bank and in hand		3,594,310		3,334,095	
		<u>4,225,357</u>		<u>3,924,798</u>	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(1,743,802)		(1,380,282)	
Net current assets			<u>2,481,555</u>		<u>2,544,516</u>
Net assets excluding pension liability			<u>12,790,913</u>		<u>12,939,944</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	24		-		(624,000)
Total net assets			<u>12,790,913</u>		<u>12,315,944</u>
Funds of the academy trust:					
Restricted funds	19				
- Fixed asset funds			10,955,286		10,792,538
- Restricted income funds			636,530		773,476
- Pension reserve			-		(624,000)
Total restricted funds			<u>11,591,816</u>		<u>10,942,014</u>
Unrestricted income funds	19		<u>1,199,097</u>		<u>1,373,930</u>
Total funds			<u>12,790,913</u>		<u>12,315,944</u>

The financial statements on pages 24 to 50 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 19/12/25 and are signed on their behalf by:



L Holland
Chair

Company registration number 10954886 (England and Wales)

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash used in operating activities	21	(1,199,975)		(2,314,607)	
Cash funds transferred on conversion		-		875,412	
		(1,199,975)		(1,439,195)	
Cash flows from investing activities					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		78,642		22,125	
Capital grants from DfE Group		1,632,843		2,362,876	
Purchase of intangible fixed assets		-		(10,800)	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(250,251)		(194,885)	
Purchase of investments		-		80	
Net cash provided by investing activities		1,461,234		2,179,396	
Cash flows from financing activities					
Repayment of long term bank loan		(1,044)		(1,044)	
Net cash used in financing activities		(1,044)		(1,044)	
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		260,215		739,157	
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year		3,334,095		2,594,938	
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year		3,594,310		3,334,095	

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1 Accounting policies

Soke Education Trust is a charitable company. The address of its principal place of business is given on page 1 and the nature of its operations are set out in the trustees' report.

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

1.1 Basis of preparation

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

Soke Education Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

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

1.2 Going concern

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate, i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charitable company to continue as a going concern. The trustees have made 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.

1.3 Income

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

Grants

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

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

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

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.

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Other income

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

Transfer of assets on conversion

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

Transfer of assets from existing academies

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

1.4 Expenditure

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

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Expenditure on raising funds

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

Charitable activities

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

Governance costs

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

1.5 Intangible fixed assets and amortisation

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:

- Website development - 20% straight line on cost

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

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

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

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

Leasehold land and buildings	2% straight line of cost
Computer equipment	33% straight line of cost
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	12.5% straight line of cost

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

1.7 Liabilities

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

1.8 Leased assets

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

1.9 Investments

Current asset investments are stated at market value.

One of the schools within the Trust has control over investment funds in the name of Helpston County Primary School Trust, the income from which can be applied for use within that school.

1.10 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets

Trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Financial liabilities

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

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

1.11 Taxation

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

1.12 Pensions benefits

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

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

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

1.13 Fund accounting

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

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

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

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

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 or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 24, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2025. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Capital grants	-	1,632,843	1,632,843	2,362,876
Other donations	38,038	-	38,038	15,648
	<u>38,038</u>	<u>1,632,843</u>	<u>1,670,881</u>	<u>2,378,524</u>

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

4 Funding for the academy trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
DfE grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	9,715,923	9,715,923	9,512,866
Other DfE grants:				
- UIFSM	-	277,212	277,212	279,529
- Pupil premium	-	765,559	765,559	760,883
- PE and sports premium	-	113,510	113,510	118,989
- Teachers' pay grant	-	164,554	164,554	166,518
- Mainstream grant	-	348,822	348,822	324,910
- Others	-	293,166	293,166	258,938
	-	11,678,746	11,678,746	11,422,633
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	915,167	915,167	848,469
Other incoming resources	262,882	66,806	329,688	494,742
Total funding	262,882	12,660,719	12,923,601	12,765,844

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Lettings	7,644	-	7,644	7,308
Other income	258,365	-	258,365	73,020
	266,009	-	266,009	80,328

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Investment income	78,642	-	78,642	22,125

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

7 Expenditure

	Staff costs £	Non-pay expenditure Premises £	Other £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	8,838,880	-	623,201	9,462,081	9,153,795
- Allocated support costs	1,780,662	2,793,865	1,067,556	5,642,083	6,508,866
	<u>10,619,542</u>	<u>2,793,865</u>	<u>1,690,757</u>	<u>15,104,164</u>	<u>15,662,661</u>

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2025 £	2024 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	336,321	364,987
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	11,000	10,300
- Other services	7,975	6,050
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	1,000	29,000

8 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Direct costs				
Educational operations	820,404	8,641,677	9,462,081	9,153,795
Support costs				
Educational operations	-	5,642,083	5,642,083	6,508,866
	<u>820,404</u>	<u>14,283,760</u>	<u>15,104,164</u>	<u>15,662,661</u>

Analysis of costs

	2025 £	2024 £
Direct costs		
Teaching and educational support staff costs	8,870,991	8,595,053
Staff development	36,867	70,889
Technology costs	11,553	23,239
Educational supplies and services	308,399	241,096
Educational consultancy	86,507	103,557
Other direct costs	147,764	119,961
	<u>9,462,081</u>	<u>9,153,795</u>

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

8 Charitable activities	(Continued)	
Support costs		
Support staff costs	1,791,708	1,692,341
Depreciation	336,321	364,987
Technology costs	178,833	138,123
Maintenance of premises and equipment	1,861,347	2,797,290
Cleaning	83,918	73,122
Energy costs	239,576	343,104
Rent, rates and other occupancy costs	212,006	225,184
Insurance	51,050	48,009
Security and transport	26,269	31,717
Catering	425,144	435,797
Finance costs	1,000	29,000
Legal costs	4,948	10,202
Other support costs	406,563	301,120
Governance costs	23,400	18,870
	<u>5,642,083</u>	<u>6,508,866</u>
9 Governance costs		
	Total	Total
All from restricted funds:	2025	2024
	£	£
Amounts included in support costs		
Legal costs	4,948	10,202
Auditor's remuneration		
- Audit of financial statements	11,000	10,300
- Other costs	12,400	8,570
	<u>28,348</u>	<u>29,072</u>

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

10 Staff

Staff costs and employee benefits

Staff costs during the year were:

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	7,678,568	7,628,708
Social security costs	799,594	686,514
Pension costs	1,914,694	1,767,052
Staff costs - employees	10,392,856	10,082,274
Agency staff costs	165,529	164,011
Staff restructuring costs	61,157	41,109
	10,619,542	10,287,394
Staff development and other staff costs	80,024	70,889
Total staff expenditure	10,699,566	10,358,283

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Redundancy payments	61,157	41,109
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Staff numbers

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

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Teachers	103	106
Administration and support	186	192
Management	10	10
	299	308

Higher paid staff

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

	2025 Number	2024 Number
£60,000 - £70,000	4	3
£70,000 - £80,000	2	2
£80,000 - £90,000	1	1
£90,000 - £100,000	2	-
£100,000 - £110,000	-	1
£120,000 - £130,000	1	-

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

10 Staff

(Continued)

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. This equates to 9 employees this year (2024 - 9). The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £928,084 (2024 - £839,773).

11 Central services

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

- human resources;
- financial services;
- legal services.

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

- In 2024/5 the Trust charged Group 1 schools 4% and all Group 2 and above schools 6% of its General Annual Grant (GAG) to pay for services provided by the Central Trust team.

The amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Werrington Primary School	118,521	108,144
Gunthorpe Primary School	121,952	119,880
Wittering Primary School	84,550	74,652
John Clare Primary School	28,078	27,024
Northborough Primary School	51,757	50,196
Alderman Jacobs School	181,990	167,640
	<u>586,848</u>	<u>547,536</u>

12 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

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

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

C Carlisle (accounting officer and trustee)

Remuneration £120,000 - £125,000 (2024 - £105,000 - £110,000)

Employer's pension contributions £30,000 - £35,000 (2024 - £25,000 - £30,000)

During the year ended 31 August 2025, no expenses were reimbursed or paid directly to trustees (2024 - £nil).

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

13 Trustees' and officers' insurance

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

14 Intangible fixed assets

	Computer software £
Cost	
At 1 September 2024 and at 31 August 2025	10,800
Amortisation	
At 1 September 2024	900
Charge for year	2,160
At 31 August 2025	3,060
Carrying amount	
At 31 August 2025	7,740
At 31 August 2024	9,900

15 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold land and buildings £	Computer equipment £	Fixtures, fittings & equipment £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 September 2024	11,654,596	460,298	373,284	12,488,178
Additions	63,149	42,846	144,256	250,251
At 31 August 2025	11,717,745	503,144	517,540	12,738,429
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2024	1,530,156	389,128	183,366	2,102,650
Charge for the year	242,973	51,014	40,174	334,161
At 31 August 2025	1,773,129	440,142	223,540	2,436,811
Net book value				
At 31 August 2025	9,944,616	63,002	294,000	10,301,618
At 31 August 2024	10,124,440	71,170	189,918	10,385,528

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

16 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	11,927	1,799
VAT recoverable	97,216	56,082
Prepayments and accrued income	519,218	530,136
	<u>628,361</u>	<u>588,017</u>

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Government loans	5,509	6,553
Trade creditors	626,036	339,975
Other taxation and social security	174,239	144,423
Other creditors	208,607	195,101
Accruals and deferred income	729,411	694,230
	<u>1,743,802</u>	<u>1,380,282</u>

18 Deferred income

	2025 £	2024 £
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	<u>229,172</u>	<u>209,062</u>
Deferred income at 1 September 2024	209,062	145,680
Released from previous years	(209,062)	(145,680)
Resources deferred in the year	<u>229,172</u>	<u>209,062</u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2025	<u>229,172</u>	<u>209,062</u>

Deferred income includes amounts received in advance relating to Universal Infant School Meals, rates rebates and restricted donations that are repayable if not utilised.

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

19 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2025 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	686,171	9,715,923	(9,523,574)	(324,261)	554,259
UIFSM	-	277,212	(277,212)	-	-
Pupil premium	11,491	765,559	(748,497)	-	28,553
Other DfE grants	27,116	920,055	(942,155)	-	5,016
Other government grants	-	915,167	(915,167)	-	-
Other restricted funds	48,698	66,803	(66,799)	-	48,702
Pension reserve	(624,000)	-	(16,000)	640,000	-
	<u>149,476</u>	<u>12,660,719</u>	<u>(12,489,404)</u>	<u>315,739</u>	<u>636,530</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE group capital grants	397,110	1,632,843	(1,458,035)	74,010	645,928
Capital expenditure from GAG	10,395,428	-	(336,321)	250,251	10,309,358
	<u>10,792,538</u>	<u>1,632,843</u>	<u>(1,794,356)</u>	<u>324,261</u>	<u>10,955,286</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>10,942,014</u>	<u>14,293,562</u>	<u>(14,283,760)</u>	<u>640,000</u>	<u>11,591,816</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>1,373,930</u>	<u>645,571</u>	<u>(820,404)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,199,097</u>
Total funds	<u>12,315,944</u>	<u>14,939,133</u>	<u>(15,104,164)</u>	<u>640,000</u>	<u>12,790,913</u>

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

19 Funds

(Continued)

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

General Annual Grant (GAG) must be used for the normal running costs of the Academy Trust.

Other DfE Grants comprise of various grants awarded for specific projects, in particular to boost standards of attainment. Grants include Pupil Premium funding which is intended to support education for pupils from a disadvantaged background.

Local Government Grants include funding provided for pupils with Statements of Special Educational Needs and is used by the academy to assist with the pupils education.

Devolved capital funding is that provided to academies to use as it sees fit in areas such as improvements to buildings or facilities, or the repair or refurbishment of such.

Other capital grants are provided to the academy based on specific bids for individual projects.

Other income comprises various other receipts including school meals. The income is classed as restricted or unrestricted based on the nature of the income.

The pension reserve arises from the actuarial measurement of the Academy Trust's share of the Local Government Pension Scheme deficit. This is recorded as a provision. The actuarial cost of employing staff during the year is initially reflected in the normal running costs of the school in the restricted pension fund.

General Annual Grant must be used for the normal running costs of the Academy Trust. Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of academy closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013.

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

19 Funds

(Continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	728,802	9,616,991	(9,399,447)	(260,175)	686,171
UIFSM	-	279,529	(279,529)	-	-
Pupil premium	35,632	760,883	(785,024)	-	11,491
Other DfE grants	73,687	869,358	(915,929)	-	27,116
Other government grants	-	848,469	(848,469)	-	-
Families Centre	41,131	65,395	(62,140)	-	44,386
JumpJet Book Club	1,463	-	-	-	1,463
Other restricted funds	52,898	80	(50,129)	-	2,849
Pension reserve	(1,116,000)	125,000	(7,000)	374,000	(624,000)
	<u>(182,387)</u>	<u>12,565,705</u>	<u>(12,347,667)</u>	<u>113,825</u>	<u>149,476</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE group capital grants	467,221	2,469,084	(2,593,685)	54,490	397,110
Capital expenditure from GAG	7,899,033	2,655,697	(364,987)	205,685	10,395,428
	<u>8,366,254</u>	<u>5,124,781</u>	<u>(2,958,672)</u>	<u>260,175</u>	<u>10,792,538</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>8,183,867</u>	<u>17,690,486</u>	<u>(15,306,339)</u>	<u>374,000</u>	<u>10,942,014</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	707,093	1,005,556	(356,322)	-	1,356,327
School fund	-	17,603	-	-	17,603
	<u>707,093</u>	<u>1,023,159</u>	<u>(356,322)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,373,930</u>
Total funds	<u>8,890,960</u>	<u>18,713,645</u>	<u>(15,662,661)</u>	<u>374,000</u>	<u>12,315,944</u>

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

19 Funds

(Continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

	2025 £	2024 £
Fund balances at 31 August 2025 were allocated as follows:		
Werrington Primary School	449,750	429,779
Gunthorpe Primary School	689,898	690,040
Wittering Primary School	84,385	113,435
John Clare Primary School	19,191	36,084
Northborough Primary School	187,432	225,365
Alderman Jacobs School	457,425	627,526
Central services	(52,454)	25,177
Total before fixed assets fund and pension reserve	1,835,627	2,147,406
Restricted fixed asset fund	10,955,286	10,792,538
Pension reserve	-	(624,000)
Total funds	12,790,913	12,315,944

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Werrington Primary School	1,664,652	173,641	65,139	432,630	2,336,062	2,942,964
Gunthorpe Primary School	1,657,809	267,865	86,537	439,080	2,451,291	3,337,599
Wittering Primary School	1,225,529	432,551	38,718	961,347	2,658,145	2,163,479
John Clare Primary School	539,766	101,192	41,537	170,063	852,558	808,944
Northborough Primary School	722,186	76,336	53,924	306,696	1,159,142	1,383,015
Alderman Jacobs School	2,746,709	494,037	105,487	1,189,197	4,535,430	3,912,639
Central services	314,340	246,086	3,564	211,225	775,215	749,033
	8,870,991	1,791,708	394,906	3,710,238	14,767,843	15,297,673

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 August 2025 are represented by:				
Intangible fixed assets	-	-	7,740	7,740
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	10,301,618	10,301,618
Current assets	1,202,390	2,310,328	712,639	4,225,357
Current liabilities	(3,293)	(1,673,798)	(66,711)	(1,743,802)
Total net assets	1,199,097	636,530	10,955,286	12,790,913
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:				
Intangible fixed assets	-	-	9,900	9,900
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	10,385,528	10,385,528
Current assets	1,373,930	2,142,705	408,163	3,924,798
Current liabilities	-	(1,369,229)	(11,053)	(1,380,282)
Pension scheme liability	-	(624,000)	-	(624,000)
Total net assets	1,373,930	149,476	10,792,538	12,315,944

21 Reconciliation of net (expenditure)/income to net cash flow from operating activities

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Net (expenditure)/income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		(165,031)	3,050,984
Adjusted for:			
Net surplus on transfer of academy in the trust		-	(3,466,824)
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income		(1,632,843)	(2,362,876)
Investment income receivable	6	(78,642)	(22,125)
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	24	15,000	(22,000)
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	24	1,000	29,000
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		336,321	364,987
(Increase) in debtors		(40,344)	(345,572)
Increase in creditors		364,564	649,104
Stocks, debtors and creditors transferred on conversion		-	(189,285)
Net cash used in operating activities		(1,199,975)	(2,314,607)

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

22 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2024 £	Cash flows £	31 August 2025 £
Cash	3,334,095	260,215	3,594,310
Loans falling due within one year	(6,553)	1,044	(5,509)
	<u>3,327,542</u>	<u>261,259</u>	<u>3,588,801</u>

23 Members' liability

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

24 Pension and similar obligations

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

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

Contributions amounting to £208,508 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2025 (2024: £194,245) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

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

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

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.

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

24 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

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

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £1,305,780 (2024: 1,141,040).

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 contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates until March 2026 are 15.6 to 20.6% for employers and 5.5 to 12.5% for employees.

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

Total contributions made	2025 £	2024 £
Employer's contributions	600,000	664,000
Employees' contributions	176,000	173,000
Total contributions	776,000	837,000
Principal actuarial assumptions	2025 %	2024 %
Rate of increase in salaries	3.20	3.15
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.70	2.65
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	6.05	5.0

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

24 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

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

	2025 Years	2024 Years
Retiring today		
- Males	21.55	21.3
- Females	24.05	24.0
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	20.55	20.35
- Females	25.25	25.25

Sensitivity analysis

Scheme liabilities would have been affected by changes in assumptions as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
0.5% decrease in Real Discount Rate	925,000	1,090,000
0.5% increase in Salary Increase Rate	35,000	40,000
0.5% increase in Pension Increase Rate	920,000	1,065,000

Defined benefit pension scheme net asset/(liability)

	2025 £	2024 £
Scheme assets	10,941,000	9,733,000
Scheme obligations	(8,813,000)	(9,748,000)
Net asset/(liability)	2,128,000	(15,000)
Restriction on scheme assets	(2,128,000)	(609,000)
Total liability recognised	-	(624,000)

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

24 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

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

	2025 Fair value £	2024 Fair value £
Equities	6,455,190	5,645,140
Bonds	2,516,430	2,335,920
Property	1,750,560	1,557,280
Other assets	218,820	194,660
Total market value of assets	10,941,000	9,733,000
Restriction on scheme assets	(2,128,000)	(609,000)
Net assets recognised	8,813,000	9,124,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £589,000 (2024: £933,000).

Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Current service cost	615,000	642,000
Interest income	(502,000)	(439,000)
Interest cost	503,000	468,000
Total amount recognised	616,000	671,000

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations

	2025 £	2024 £
At 1 September 2024	9,748,000	6,040,000
Transferred in on existing academies joining the academy trust	-	2,622,000
Current service cost	615,000	642,000
Interest cost	503,000	468,000
Employee contributions	176,000	173,000
Actuarial gain	(2,072,000)	(57,000)
Benefits paid	(157,000)	(140,000)
At 31 August 2025	8,813,000	9,748,000

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

24 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

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

	2025 £	2024 £
At 1 September 2024	9,733,000	4,924,000
Transferred in on existing academies joining the academy trust	-	3,179,000
Interest income	502,000	439,000
Actuarial gain	87,000	494,000
Employer contributions	600,000	664,000
Employee contributions	176,000	173,000
Benefits paid	(157,000)	(140,000)
At 31 August 2025	10,941,000	9,733,000
Restriction on scheme assets	(2,128,000)	(609,000)
Net assets recognised	8,813,000	9,124,000

The overall net asset before restriction is made up of two fund pools, one relating to Soke Education Trust (excluding Alderman Jacobs School) and one relating to Alderman Jacobs School.

The actuarial valuation prepared under FRS102 in respect of the Local Government Pension Scheme indicated that the Alderman Jacobs School's share of the scheme was in surplus at the year end to the value of £1,405,000 (2024: £759,000). The actuaries have undertaken an asset ceiling calculation to determine how much of the asset is expected to materialise. The actuaries consider whether the period being considered for recognition of the potential asset should be in perpetuity or over the estimated future working life of members in the scheme and the trustees consider that using the 'future working life' period more appropriately reflects the amount that it is reasonable to recognise in respect of the foreseeable future. The results under both of these methods suggest it is inappropriate to recognise any of the asset.

The actuarial valuation prepared under FRS102 in respect of the Local Government Pension Scheme indicated that Soke Education Trust's (excluding Alderman Jacobs School) share of the scheme was in surplus at the year end to the value of £723,000 (2024: 774,000 in deficit). The actuaries have undertaken an asset ceiling calculation to determine how much of the asset is expected to materialise. The actuaries consider whether the period being considered for recognition of the potential asset should be in perpetuity or over the estimated future working life of members in the scheme and the trustees consider that using the 'future working life' period more appropriately reflects the amount that it is reasonable to recognise in respect of the foreseeable future. The results under both of these methods suggest it is inappropriate to recognise any of the asset.

Restriction of pension scheme assets

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

SOKE EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

25 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the academy trust's operations 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 academy trust has an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the academy trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

Some of the trustees have children who are pupils at the trust's academies, consequently there will be transactions between those trustees and the trust in respect of their children's education. These are on the same basis as other pupils at the trust's academies.