

**South Westmorland Multi Academy Trust  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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**Annual Report and Financial Statements**

**Year ended 31 August 2025**

Company Registration Number: 07646748 (England & Wales)

# **SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST**

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**YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

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# SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

<b>Registered Charity Name</b>	South Westmorland Multi Academy Trust		
<b>Company Registration Number</b>	07646748 (England & Wales)		
<b>Principal and Registered Office</b>	Dallam School Milnthorpe Cumbria LA7 7DD		
	<b>Appointment Date</b>	<b>Resignation Date</b>	
<b>Members</b>			
* Mrs E J Fraser (Trustee)			
Mrs M E M Bailey	16/07/2025		
Mrs J Clarke			31/07/2025
Mr R J Pirie (DSCT)			
Mrs S C Swindley			
<b>Trustees / Directors</b>			
* Mr A J Gerrard (Chair of MAT Board)			
Ms C L P Alexander			
* Mrs E J Fraser			
Mr C Gates	23/09/2025		
* Mrs P A Houghton			
Mr A S D Lauretani	23/09/2025		
Miss L H Richardson	23/09/2025		
* Mr S G Thomas	01/10/2024		
* Mr R T Villiers-Smith			
Mrs J M Wren	23/09/2025		
<b>Ex Officio Trustees</b>			
* Mr S J Henneberry			
* Current members of the Risk, Audit & Finance Committee			
<b>Company Secretary</b>	J Hamer		
<b>Senior Leadership Team:</b>			
Headteacher	SJ Henneberry		
Deputy Headteacher	L Leck		31/12/2024
Deputy Headteacher	C Pattinson	02/06/2025	
Senior Assistant Headteacher	R Surtees		
Senior Assistant Headteacher	D Oliver		
Assistant Headteacher	A Wilcock		31/12/2024
Assistant Headteacher	S Watson		
Assistant Headteacher	R Knipe		
Assistant Headteacher	L Nelson	01/01/2025	31/08/2025
Assistant Headteacher	K Forsyth	01/01/2025	
Head of Boarding	N Gilbert		
Chief Finance Officer	J Hamer		

# SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

		Appointment Date	Resignation Date
<b>Independent Auditor</b>	Saint & Co Chartered Accountants The Old Police Station Church Street Ambleside Cumbria LA22 0BT		
<b>Bankers</b>	Lloyds Bank plc 11 Finkle Street Kendal Cumbria LA9 4AG		
<b>Solicitors</b>	Schofield Sweeney Springfield House 76 Wellington Street Leeds LS1 2AY		

# SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

### YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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

The trust operates a multi academy trust (MAT) serving a catchment area in Cumbria and Lancashire. The MAT comprises the following schools:

- Dallam School

Dallam school is a mixed, converter academy school with state boarding provision for pupils aged 11 to 19, serving a catchment area in Milnthorpe and the surrounding area. It has a pupil capacity of 1150 (increased from 1050 from 01 September 2021) and had a roll of 774 in the school census on 02 October 2025.

#### **Structure, Governance and Management**

##### Constitution

The multi 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 multi academy trust. The trustees of the South Westmorland Multi Academy Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as the South Westmorland Multi Academy Trust.

The full board of trustees is responsible to the Secretary of State and to the school, its staff, pupils and parents for the successful leadership and management of the school. A smaller group of trustees also act as the trustees for the charitable activities of Dallam School Charitable Trust Limited and are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law.

Details of the trustees who served during the year 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.

##### Trustee's Indemnities

The multi academy trust has purchased indemnity insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising in connection with academy business.

##### Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

The trustees are appointed under the terms of the multi academy trust's articles of association as follows:

- Up to 10 trustees, appointed under Article 50
- A minimum of 2 Parent Trustees elected or appointed under Articles 53-56 in the event that no Local Advisory Committees are established under Article 100a or if no provision is made for at least 2 Parent Local Advisors on each established Local Advisory Committee pursuant to Article 101A.
- In circumstances where the Trustees have not appointed Local Advisory Committees in respect of the Academies as envisaged in Article 100a or if no provision is made for at least 2 Parent Local Advisors on each established Local Advisory Committee pursuant to Article 101A there shall be a minimum of two Parent Trustees and otherwise such number as the Members shall decide who shall be appointed or elected in accordance with Articles 54 - 56.
- The total number of Trustees including the Accounting Officer if they so choose to act as Trustee under Article 57 who are employees of the Academy Trust shall not exceed one third of the total number of Trustees.
- Providing that the Accounting Officer agrees so to act, the Members may by ordinary resolution appoint the Accounting Officer as a Trustee.
- The Trustees may appoint Co-opted Trustees.

# **SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

### **YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

#### Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees (continued)

New trustees are recruited on the basis of the skills and competencies required to address gaps highlighted in regular skills audits of the existing MAT board.

The term of office for all trustees is four years. The Accounting Officer is not appointed as a trustee. The trustees who were in office at 31st August 2025 or who served throughout the period, except where shown, are listed on page 1.

#### Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees.

During the period under review the trustees held 6 meetings. The South Westmorland MAT recognises that new trustees do not necessarily have a background in education or a thorough understanding of the school. To ensure they receive the necessary support to undertake their duties as soon as possible, the induction and training process includes:

- A preliminary informal discussion with the Headteacher, and as necessary the Chair of the MAT or Local Advisory Committee, to ensure they understand their general responsibilities and time commitment
- An induction meeting with the Headteacher, Chair of the MAT and Chair of the Local Advisory Committee, to include a tour of the school
- An induction pack and initial training on the school systems and sources of information by the Clerk
  
- Assignment of a mentor from the existing Local Advisory Committee
- Regular training on developments in governance issues
- Annual training for each trustee related to their specific roles

#### Organisational Structure

The trustees are the charity trustees and are responsible for the general control and management of the administration of the trust in accordance with the provisions set out in the Memorandum and Articles of Association. The Board of Trustees is accountable for the performance of all academies within the trust and as such must:

Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction

Hold the Academy Heads to account for the educational performance of the schools and their pupils, and the performance management of staff

Oversee the financial performance of the trust and make sure its money is well spent

The Trust Board is permitted to exercise all the powers of the Academy Trust and delegates responsibility for the day to day operations to the Accounting Officer. The Accounting Officer has the delegated responsibility for the operation of the trust including the performance of the trust's academies and performance management of the academy heads. Assistance is provided by the chairs of each Local Advisory Committee.

In the role of Accounting Officer the Chief Executive Officer holds overall responsibility for the academy trust's financial responsibilities and must ensure that the organisation is run with financial effectiveness and stability; avoiding waste and securing value for money. As leader of the MAT's leadership team the Accounting Officer can delegate executive management functions to the team and is responsible for their performance.

#### Arrangements for Setting Pay and Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

The MAT Board holds responsibility for setting the pay and remuneration of the academy's key management personnel in accordance with the Pay Policy for Teachers, based on the format of the DfE's model policy and NJC terms and conditions for support staff. Pay progression is based on an annual cycle running from 1st September to 31st August and is determined by achievement of pre determined performance objectives. Responsibility for the appraisal process has been delegated to the Head Teachers Pay Review Committee and Pay Review Committees, both sub committees of the MAT Board. The MAT Board has delegated responsibility for the appointment and performance management of the academy heads to the Accounting Officer through the Scheme of Delegation.

# SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

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
2	2

Percentage of time spent on facility time

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

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Total cost of facility time	£18,168
Total pay bill	£6,286,891
% of total pay bill spent on facility time	0.289%

Paid trade union activities

There was no paid union activity during the period

### Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

The multi academy trust is made up of the following schools:

- Dallam School

Dallam School supports the rationale that there is strength in partnerships and is a member of the South Lakes Federation to bring rigour, challenge and a greater capacity for improvement. The collaborative federation is made up of eleven secondary schools, Kendal College and the University of Cumbria within the South Lakes area, providing an opportunity for curriculum enrichment, access for students to vocational courses and support for gifted and talented students. A series of 'thresholds for performance' or benchmarks for attainment and progress of students are set within the federation and support for improvement is provided where necessary.

Dallam School benefits financially from Dallam School Charitable Trust, an unincorporated charity whose objects include assisting the trustees to defray the costs of maintenance of the school, assist in providing special benefits not normally provided by the DfE, and to promote the education of persons who are attending/have attended the school.

### **Objectives and Activities**

#### Objects and Aims

The main objects of the multi academy trust are:

- to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, by establishing, maintaining, managing and developing schools offering a broad and balanced curriculum
- to promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of the areas in which the academies are situated the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation with the object of improving the condition of life.

# SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### Objectives, Strategies and Activities

The main objectives for the year, the strategies for achieving them, and the key personnel and timeframes are all detailed within our School Improvement Plan (SIP). Progress toward these objectives is monitored through weekly meetings of the Senior Leadership Team. South Westmorland Multi Academy Trust continues to monitor and evaluate this progress through the Trustees meetings and regular Headteacher reports.

The priorities detailed in the school improvement plan during 2024-25 were as follows:

#### **SIP Priorities**

##### *Culture and behaviour - a safe, inclusive and respectful community*

- Embed consistency in expectations, routines and sanctions through the STAR approach and the staged behaviour response.

- Strengthen personal development with a clear, assessable curriculum promoting resilience, relationships, and the Dallam Way values.

- Ensure every student feels safe, supported and known — with strong pastoral QA, use of Provision Maps, and early intervention for those at risk.

##### *Teaching and learning – high quality daily teaching for all*

- Embed the Core 4 principles: explicit instruction, high participation, effective retrieval, and precise assessment and feedback.

- Use data-driven moderation, common assessment standards, and targeted CPD to close learning gaps and improve outcomes.

- Build consistency in classroom routines and expectations so all students experience calm, purposeful learning every lesson.

##### *Community and people – a strong, connected school*

- Develop a robust People Strategy to retain, support, and grow staff through coaching, professional development, and wellbeing initiatives.

- Strengthen community engagement through outreach with local primaries, improved parental communication, and enhanced recruitment materials.

- Foster belonging and pride through clear communication of expectations, listening to student and parent voice, and living the Dallam Way.

### Public Benefit

In setting the objectives, the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular to its supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing education.

## **Strategic Report**

### **Achievements and Performance**

During the academic year 2024-25, Dallam School and SWMAT made considerable progress towards the SIP priorities. Progression was measured and monitored through the Local Advisory Committee meetings and our trustee and LAC champions, who provided both support and challenge to school leaders. Champions cover the following areas:

- Performance and evaluation (examination and performance data, pupil attendance and recruitment)
- Safeguarding
- SEND
- Pupil premium
- Equality
- Careers provision
- Sixth Form
- Boarding
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Personal development
- Behaviour and attitudes

# SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### **Achievements and Performance (continued)**

*The South Westmorland Multi Academy Trust achievements in the year include:*

The Trust Board supported the implementation of a rapid improvement plan to drive change following the Ofsted requires improvement rating in May 2023. The impact of the decisive action has been recognised during a one-day OFSTED monitoring inspection in November 2024 in which Dallam School's Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team have been commended for their progress in implementing the school's improvement plan. The OFSTED Inspector recognised that the school had demonstrated significant strides in addressing key areas of concern highlighted after the full inspection in 2023.

Trustees are aware of their responsibility for risk management across the full operations and activities of the trust. The risk posed by falling rolls has been reviewed and mitigated through a series of efficiency savings to maintain a balanced budget. The action taken has been handled sensitively and with little or no impact on student wellbeing and outcomes.

*Dallam School achievements in the year include:*

- A new, specialist-led Personal Development curriculum has been introduced, underpinned by aligned assemblies, pastoral work, and formal assessment. This has strengthened students' understanding of relationships, well-being, and citizenship.
- Whole-school teaching routines — DNAs, Core Four, and knowledge organisers — are now fully embedded, improving lesson focus, retrieval, and engagement.
- Assessment and feedback have become sharper, with clear rubrics, better KS3 tracking, and more responsive teaching ensuring misconceptions are identified and addressed quickly.
- Reading and literacy have become key strengths: targeted interventions (Step and Leap), structured "Register & Read," and a growing reading culture are helping students close gaps in fluency and comprehension.
- Behaviour expectations are clear and consistent, driven by STAR routines, daily senior presence, and relational approaches. Lessons start calmly, transitions are smoother, and student confidence in school systems has increased.
- Pastoral care has been transformed through a triage system, visible leadership, and an expanded Woodlands and Forest School provision — helping more students feel safe, supported, and ready to learn.
- Instructional coaching and high-quality CPD have built professional confidence, with staff routinely using Walkthroughs and shared rubrics to define and deliver excellent teaching.
- Improved communication and relationships through "First Lesson Back," student briefings, and consistent form routines have fostered greater connection, clarity, and pride in the school.
- Parental confidence in the school continues to rise, reflected in significantly improved survey results on behaviour, high expectations, and trust in leadership.☑

# SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### Key Financial Performance Indicators

#### **Dallam School**

Staffing costs as a % of total income (excluding capital income)

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Teaching staff	49.7%	50.0%	48.7%	52.8%	51.0%	54.1%
Support staff	19.3%	18.5%	19.2%	19.1%	20.0%	21.3%
Total	69.0%	68.5%	67.9%	71.9%	71.0%	75.4%

#### Teaching Staff

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Pupils on roll	881	995	1059	1082	1082	1075
Full time equivalents teachers	51	59	61	64	67	68
Pupil teacher ratio	17.3	16.9	17.4	16.9	16.1	15.8

#### Going Concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the MAT Board of trustees has a reasonable expectation that the multi academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason it adopts 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.

#### **Financial Review**

The South Westmorland Multi Academy Trust's financial statements are for the year ended 31 August 2025.

The Trust has continued to invest time and resource in exploring alternative markets for its boarding provision, post Brexit and Covid. The success of the Dallam Experience programme, short term immersion weeks and the hire of the boarding facilities for educational purposes has helped to offset the challenges of recruiting full time boarding students and kept the 5 year recovery plan on track.

The Academy Trust ends the year in a very strong financial position with net current assets totalling £1,768,872 (2024: £1,063,371). Trustees are mindful of the need to regrow the boarding provision post Brexit and the Covid-19 pandemic.

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

Dallam School is a state boarding school with 141 boarding places. A large proportion of its income is generated from annual boarding fees.

During the period ended 31 August 2025, total general expenditure of £8,579,104 was covered by recurrent grant funding from the DfE together with other incoming resources. The excess of expenditure over income for the year was £15,175.

At 31 August 2025 the net book value of fixed assets was £9,734,255 and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in the notes to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the Academy.

# **SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

### **YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

#### Reserves Policy

The level of reserves held takes into account the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match them with commitments, including future capital projects, and the nature of the reserves. The trustees continue to keep the level of reserves under review.

The general unrestricted fund balance at the year end was £316,096 (2024: £266,041). The trustees believe that this level of reserves is required to support the running of the school. The designated sports fund at the year end was £235,423 (2024: £206,101), this fund is for the purchase of sports equipment and the resurfacing of the all weather pitch.

The Trust aspires to hold reserves in the region of one month of annual expenditure to ensure it is able to produce a three year balanced budget, support a staffing model commensurate with curriculum requirements and maintain the Trust as a going concern in the event of unforeseen events, such as a pandemic. Trustees acknowledge that although the reserves level of £1,081,198 held at 31st August 2025 exceeds their expectations, this provides the security required to support the boarding provision and mitigate the boarding fund deficit during the five year recovery plan.

#### Funds in Deficit

The trustees note that certain restricted funds are in deficit which have been disclosed in the funds note supporting the financial statements.

Boarding Fund - Trustees approved a balanced three-year budget, with reserves for the period to 31/08/2028. As a result of the exceptional circumstances arising from Brexit and the Covid-19 pandemic, the Boarding Fund has been supported by a transfer of £100,000 from General Unrestricted Funds for the financial period ended 31/08/2025. The Head of Boarding has been provided with a healthy marketing budget to develop strong contacts with boarding agents and increase boarding student recruitment. As a result of these measures, we aim to bring the fund out of deficit by 2028.

#### Principal Funding Sources

The main sources of income for the year were: The DfE, boarding provision, the local authority and the Dallam School Charitable Trust.

#### Investment Policy

The Board of Trustees aims to ensure value for money when considering investment decisions whilst exercising caution and ensuring security of funds takes precedence over revenue maximisation. Any reserves are currently held in a range of higher interest accounts with the multi academy trust's bankers.

#### **Principal Risks and Uncertainties**

The major risks the multi academy trust is exposed to concern the real terms cut in funding by the Department for Education. The multi academy trust mitigates these risks by preparing a 3 year budget forecast and closely monitoring the budgetary position. The multi academy trust maintains a risk register which is monitored on a termly basis by the Risk, Audit & Finance Committee, established by the trustees.

# SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### Financial and Risk Management Objectives and Policies

A budget for the period was agreed prior to the beginning of the accounting period. Management accounts were presented at each termly Risk, Audit & Finance Committee trustee meeting and income and expenditure monitored against budget. All the MAT's financial policies, systems and controls are disclosed in the MAT's Financial Regulations Manual.

### Risk Management

The trustees have reviewed all major risks to which the MAT is exposed and systems have been established to mitigate those risks. A risk register has been produced, as per guidance in the Academy Trust Handbook which demonstrates the results of the risk assessment process. The trust recognises and manages present and future risk to ensure the effective and continued operation of Dallam School and will update its procedures accordingly as and when further trust growth occurs. A contingency and business continuity plan has been prepared to deal with crises that could face the MAT. The MAT has effective systems of internal financial controls and this is explained in more detail in the statement on internal control.

### Trust Estate Management

Trustees have a responsibility to ensure the trust's estate is safe, well maintained and complies with relevant regulations. The Trust has a 10 year Land and Buildings plan that is reviewed by trustees at termly Risk, Audit and Finance Committee meetings. During the year trustees have approved the installation of additional solar panels to reduce the school's carbon footprint and mitigate the risk of rising energy costs.

### Fundraising

During the period in question the Trust has not engaged professional fundraisers or commercial participators to undertake any fundraising activities on its behalf. The Trust has secured a grant of just under £49,000 from The Savoy Hotel to refurbish a food technology room, as well as undertaking regular minor fundraising activities which include mufti days and a whole school sponsored walk, whereby students sought voluntary donations from parents, carers and the local community. The development of a rigorous approach to external fundraising will be a priority moving forwards.

### **Plans for Future Periods**

#### *The South Westmorland Multi Academy Trust*

- People strategy – develop a strategy that will ensure that the SWMAT retains its most able and talented staff and attracts the best talent when recruiting.☑
- Environment – develop a strategy that will ensure that the SWMAT is seen as being proactive in reducing their environmental impact and ensuring that students leave with an understanding of environmental issues facing local, national and international communities.☑
- Curriculum (KS3/KS4) – to develop a balanced, rigorous, coherent, integrated, appropriate, focused and relevant curriculum offer, supported by high quality teaching and resources.☑
- Sixth Form (including post-16 curriculum) – to build an attractive, relevant and forward-thinking curriculum in our Sixth Form to retain and attract students to study with us post-16.☑
- Community – agree a strategy to re-engage with our students, parents/carers, and local community to ensure that Dallam School's current and future activities are seen in a positive light.

# SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### Plans for Future Periods (*continued*)

#### *Dallam School*

##### **Belonging and character**

We will continue to strengthen belonging and identity through inclusive daily routines, visible values, and shared experiences that make every student and staff member proud to be part of Dallam. Our focus on emotional resilience, self-regulation, and leadership at all levels will help students feel safe, seen, and supported to thrive.

##### **Teaching and progress**

We will build on the success of embedded routines by deepening the impact of adaptive teaching, assessment, and feedback. Through RADY principles and a continued focus on writing, reading, and oracy, we will ensure that all students — especially disadvantaged and SEND learners — make strong progress from their starting points.

##### **Community and growth**

We are committed to establishing Dallam as the school of choice for families and staff. This includes improving student recruitment and retention, strengthening Sixth Form progression, and developing leadership capacity at every level. We will continue to nurture trust and partnership with parents, celebrate student success, and promote a culture of shared responsibility and high standards.

#### *Dallam Boarding*

##### **Fostering wellbeing and community spirit**

We are committed to improving student wellbeing by creating spaces for relaxation and reflection within the boarding facilities. Regular wellbeing surveys will help monitor students' mental health and ensure timely support. We will also expand the peer mentoring system, offering more training and opportunities for interaction. To foster a sense of community, we will celebrate acts of kindness and host social events, while encouraging students to take leadership roles in projects.

##### **Enhancing academic support and study habits**

We aim to strengthen communication between teachers and boarding staff to better monitor academic progress. Structured homework sessions with both academic and emotional support will be provided, and consistent evening study routines will be encouraged. We will recognise students' efforts and improvements, and offer tailored support plans for those with SEND, high prior attainment, or from disadvantaged backgrounds, ensuring equal access to opportunities.

##### **Strengthening communication and recruitment**

Effective communication with families is vital. We will offer personalised updates through newsletters and maintain clear contact during the admissions process. New boarders will receive strong onboarding support, with check-ins at three and six months. We will also work with partner agents and explore new recruitment strategies to expand our boarding community.

Each area of implementation will be supported by effective professional development, clear systems, reformed leadership roles and responsibilities, policies and protocols, explicit communication, regular quality assurance and modelled through behaviours of leaders.

# **SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

**YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

### **Funds Held on Behalf of Others**

The multi academy trust acts as a intermediary for the 16-19 Bursary fund, but has no responsibility, the trust distributes the funds to students as an agent for the DfE.


### **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.

Saint & Co Chartered Accountants were formally re-appointed by the Members at a meeting of the Trust held on 18th December 2024.

The Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 9th December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



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Mr A. Gerrard  
Chair of Trustees

# SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### Scope of Responsibility

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

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

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

### Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The MAT Board has formally met 6 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of trustees was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings Attended	Out of a Possible
Mr S J Henneberry (Headteacher & Accounting Officer)	6	6
Mr A J Gerrard (Chair)	6	6
Ms C L P Alexander	6	6
Mrs E J Fraser	6	6
Mrs P A Houghton	6	6
Mr S G Thomas	6	6
Mr R T Villiers-Smith	6	6

### Governance Review

#### *Key changes in the composition of the Board of Trustees*

The Trust Board has reviewed and approved changes to its Scheme of Delegation and decision-making structure by agreeing to disband Dallam School's Local Advisory Committee and appoint those members onto the Trust Board. This will significantly improve the Board's breadth of skills, bringing in additional expertise in law, safeguarding, finance and parent voice. Reducing staff workload is a key priority of the Trust Board and these changes, which will be implemented during the 2025-26 academic and financial year, are expected to support school leaders by reducing the number of meetings they have to attend and eliminating duplication in reporting.

The Trust Board is aware of a need to have five members (rather than the minimum of three) to ensure they can meet the required quorum for meetings and make decisions, particularly special resolutions that need 75% agreement. The members appointed an additional member during the 2025-26 financial and academic year.

#### *The coverage of its work*

The MAT Board has focused on a number of key strategic priorities during the year. The quality of provision at Key Stage 5, which links to the recruitment of full time boarding students, and the breadth of curriculum for our sixth form students remains a key area of review for trustees. Trustees are mindful of the national recruitment and retention crisis across the education sector and have worked with senior leaders to ensure the MAT remains the employer of choice, scrutinising and approving initiatives to retain the best talent through a focus on staff wellbeing and the implementation of flexible working across the organisation.

Other key areas of focus include strengthening our community engagement and supporting projects that deliver environmental sustainability. With an OFSTED inspection highly probable in 2025/26, the preparation for this has also become a focus for the Board.

# SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### *The coverage of its work (continued)*

The board works closely with senior officers to ensure financial probity. The impact of student numbers on roll has been monitored by trustees on a regular basis and was factored into the three-year budget.

The Risk Register is reviewed on a regular basis and boarding recruitment is followed closely. Risk now drives the Board and Sub-committee's agendas to ensure that mitigating action to address high risks is in place and monitored appropriately.

Trustees have continued to have a focus on improvements in boarding and regular updates on boarding recruitment and marketing activity have been provided to trustees and discussed in detail.

### *The board's performance, including assessment of its own effectiveness and any particular challenges that have arisen for the Board*

The Board and its committees meet both virtually and face to face. A skills audit and the Chair's 360 review have taken place. There is a good mix of skills and experience within the board. Individual Trustee interviews will take place this year to identify any board improvements and training needs. The board is becoming increasingly strategically focused now the new Head, Deputy Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team are all in place. Trustees are active in meetings, challenging leaders and other trustees in an open, honest way. The concept of radical candour is often quoted.☒

### *Information about the quality of the data used by the board, and why the board finds it acceptable*

The data provided to the MAT and Local Advisory Committee is of good quality and is provided in good time for questions to be sent in advance of meetings. Information provided to the Board in the form of a dashboard continues to be improved. Safeguarding, Pupil Premium and SEND reports are all well-presented, using standard formats.

The Self Evaluation Form and School Improvement Plan structures have been further improved. Key performance indicators are discussed increasingly within the context of local and national comparators where available. Detailed reports on changes to budget allocations and variance are included for clarity and discussion. Audit data is regularly discussed at termly meetings of the Risk, Audit & Finance Committee.☒

☒

The Board has ensured that it has met regularly and the data it has used over the last year has therefore always been up to date. Communication between trustees and senior officers has been very good; the Board of Trustees met with officers 5 times between the 1st September and the 31st August. An additional mid-year meeting between the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board and the Board's Members also took place.

### **Conflicts of interest**

The Academy Trust has a number of processes in place to manage conflicts of interest. These include:

- The work of the Pay Review Committee to consider decisions about executive pay and benefits
- Recording trustees declaration of interest in meeting agenda items
- Maintaining an up-to-date and complete register of interests, documented on the trust website and shared with finance staff to check before entering into contracts or procuring goods for the organisation
- Ensure goods or services provided by related parties are at no more than cost

# SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### **Meetings**

To ensure trustees and senior leaders maintain robust oversight of the academy trust, and take full responsibility for its financial affairs, stewardship of assets and use of resources efficiently to maximise outcomes for students, the Trust Board sets an annual calendar of meetings. During the 2024/25 financial year the Trust Board met a total of 6 times during the year and the Risk, Audit & Finance Committee met 3 times.

### **Risk, Audit and Finance Committee**

The Risk, Audit and Finance Committee is a sub-committee of the MAT Board. Its purpose is to assist the decision making of the board of trustees by ensuring sound management of the multi academy trust's finances, resources, systems of internal control and risk profile, including proper planning, monitoring and probity. Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Meetings Attended</b>	<b>Out of a Possible</b>
Mr R T Villiers-Smith (Committee Chair)	3	3
Ms C L P Alexander	2	3
Mrs E J Fraser	3	3
Mr A J Gerrard	2	3
S J Henneberry (Headteacher & Accounting officer)	3	3
Mr S G Thomas	3	3

### **Review of Value for Money**

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

The Accounting Officer considers how the trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the MAT Board where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where available. The Accounting Officer for the multi academy trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

During the 2024/25 academic and financial year the South Westmorland Multi Academy Trust has undertaken a number of initiatives to derive greater value for money from its operations whilst also ensuring it provides the best possible outcomes for its students. Below a number of areas are highlighted along with specific examples of how the trust has addressed each.

Improving educational outcomes - the Trust has focussed on ensuring financial stability with a rigorous business strategy, a clear improvement and development plan for boarding and a focus on high quality teaching that improves outcomes for young people and families, and meets our vision, values and aims.

Financial Governance and Oversight - the Trustees have strong oversight of the financial management of the MAT's budgets. The Risk, Audit and Finance Committee meet termly to review the financial position of the MAT, to receive reports and challenge decisions, before reporting to the full board. In addition to the annual external audit, a separate firm of auditors were engaged to conduct an internal audit of financial controls, and an internal audit of non-financial controls and risk management was carried out via a peer review, in accordance with best practice. Evidence of the MAT's ethos of obtaining value for money and adherence to systems of internal control is provided in their termly reports submitted for scrutiny to the Risk, Audit and Finance Committee.

*[Signature]*  
Trustee

# **SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST**

## **GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

**YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

### **Review of Value for Money (continued)**

Ensuring efficient and effective use of resources - the Trust ensures there is a continual focus on best value for money and understands how assets can be used to maximise students' progress and outcomes. The Chief Finance Officer takes care to ensure all purchases and contracts deliver value for money, using tendering to obtain at least three quotes and challenging any item which does not deliver a clear benefit. Dallam School continues to work with other local schools in the South Lakes Federation to undertake cost comparisons, particularly of contracted services, which ensures value for money. The Chief Finance Officer is a member of a local network of SBMs who meet regularly to discuss issues affecting schools and to initiate procurement advantages where possible.

Reviewing controls and managing risks - the Risk Register is reviewed on a regular basis by the Risk, Audit and Finance Committee to assess the likelihood and impact of risks and how these can be mitigated. The Chief Finance Officer and Accountant review the budget and costs on a monthly basis and submit detailed reports to trustees. Any significant variances and, in particular, changes to staffing costs are highlighted and addressed. Changes to staff contracts are carefully planned and overseen by the Accounting Officer and any agreed increments endorsed by the Trust Board within the scope of the delegated responsibilities.

### **The Purpose of the System of Internal Control**

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the MAT'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 the South Westmorland Multi Academy Trust for the year ended 31 August 2025 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

The Trust identifies risks, with reference to its risk register, and modifies its checks accordingly. Where procedures or systems have changed, such as in the boarding provision, additional meetings have been convened to ensure a suitable level of scrutiny is applied.

### **Capacity to Handle Risk**

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

### **The Risk and Control Framework**

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

- Comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the board of trustees;
- Regular reviews by the Risk, Audit and Finance Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- Setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- Clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- Delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- Identification and management of risks.

# SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### Internal Scrutiny

The board of trustees are aware of the revised FRC Ethical Standard for auditors which states that a firm providing external audit to an entity shall not also provide internal audit services to it. They have therefore considered the need for a specific internal audit function and appointed Juniper Education as internal auditors to scrutinise and report on the systems of financial control for the year ended 31 August 2025.

In addition, internal scrutiny of risk management and non-financial controls was delivered via a peer review by the chief financial officer from another academy trust. The Trust appointed Angela Johnson, Chief Financial Officer of the Lunesdale Learning Trust to conduct the review, based on her independence from the Trust and experience.

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

- testing of payroll systems;
- testing of purchases systems;
- testing of bank reconciliations

On a termly basis the internal auditor reports to the Risk, Audit and Finance Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities.

The board of trustees confirm that the internal auditor has worked with the Trust to deliver their schedule of work.

The board of trustees consider the two separate internal scrutiny reviews and subsequent reports, delivered by a bought in internal audit service (financial controls) and an independent peer review by the chief financial officer from a local academy trust (risk management and non-financial controls), deliver the best evaluation, advice and insight into financial and non-financial controls and ensure all categories of risk are adequately identified, reported and managed.

### Review of Effectiveness

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

- The work of the peer reviewer;
- The work of the internal auditor
- The work of the external auditor
- The financial management and governance self-assessment process
- The work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework


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

### Conclusion

Based on the advice of the Risk, Audit and Finance Committee and the Accounting Officer, the board of trustees is of the opinion that the academy trust has an adequate and effective framework for governance, risk management and systems of control.

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 9th December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mr A J Gerrard  
Chair of Academy Trustees

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mr S J Henneberry  
Accounting Officer

## **SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST**

### **STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE**

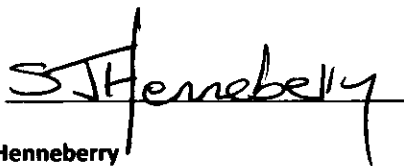
**YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

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

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

Signed:



**Mr S J Henneberry**  
**(Accounting Officer)**

# SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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

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


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

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

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mr A.J. Gerrard  
Chair of Academy Trustees

9-12-25 Date

# **SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST**

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST**

**YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

### **Opinion**

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

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 Companies Act 2006; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2019 and Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025.

### **Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company 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 South Westmorland Multi Academy Trust's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 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 including the trustees' 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. It includes the Reference and Administrative Details, the Report of the Directors and Strategic Report and the Governance Statement. 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 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.

# **SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST**

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST (continued)**

**YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

### **Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

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

- the information given in the trustees' report (including the incorporated strategic report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Report of the Trustees 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 charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters 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 (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable to 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 charitable company'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 to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

## **SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST**

### **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST *(continued)***

**YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

#### **Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Independent Auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

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

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the company through discussions with directors and other management;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

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

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:
  - performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
  - tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
  - assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in the accounting policies were indicative of potential bias; and
  - investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

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

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and

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

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

# SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

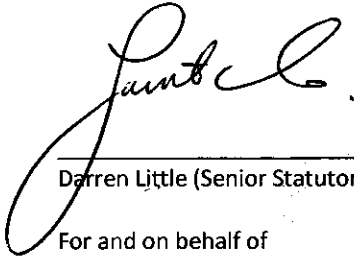
## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST *(continued)*

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditors 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.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Darren Little (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of

Saint & Co  
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors  
The Old Police Station  
Church Street  
Ambleside  
Cumbria  
LA22 0BT

09 December 2025 Date

## **SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST**

### **INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 12/11/2024 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 South Westmorland Multi Academy Trust during the period 01 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.

#### **Respective Responsibilities of the South Westmorland Multi Academy Trust's Accounting Officer and the Reporting Accountant**

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirement of the South Westmorland Multi Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 01 August 2011 and the Academy Trust Handbook for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 01 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 have not been applied for the purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

#### **Approach**

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- the school resource management self-assessment checklist (SRMSAT) was obtained and considered;
- responses to the top 10 'musts' for chairs and other trustees from the AFH was obtained and considered;
- having a general awareness of regularity and propriety whilst conducting the statutory audit function;
- reviewing if extra-contractual severance payments have been made in accordance with the Handbook;
- reviewing if borrowing agreements, including leases to ensure they have been made in accordance with the Handbook;
- reviewing the minutes of the meeting of the main committees during the year;
- reviewing expenditure to check that it was not ultra vires to the charitable objectives;
- obtaining trustee / governors declaration of interests;
- where present obtaining the accounting officer's file.

# SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION

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 01 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

### Use of our report

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



\_\_\_\_\_  
Darren Little (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of

Saint & Co  
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors  
The Old Police Station  
Church Street  
Ambleside  
Cumbria  
LA22 0BT

09 December 2025 Date

## SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

#### YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Year Ended 31 Aug 25 £	Year Ended 31 Aug 24 £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>						
Donations and capital grants	2	105,200	-	767,587	872,787	129,097
<i>Charitable activities :</i>						
- Funding for the academy trust's educational operations	3	310,684	7,195,393	-	7,506,077	7,473,202
- Provision of boarding activities	28	-	1,249,721	-	1,249,721	1,202,011
Other trading activities	4	162,858	-	-	162,858	174,892
Investment income	5	34,855	-	-	34,855	24,005
<b>Total</b>		<b>613,597</b>	<b>8,445,114</b>	<b>767,587</b>	<b>9,826,298</b>	<b>9,003,207</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Raising funds	7	123,912	-	-	123,912	141,961
<i>Charitable activities :</i>						
- Academy trust educational operations	8	340,026	6,946,652	353,559	7,640,237	7,522,129
- Provision of boarding activities	8/28	-	1,168,514	561,224	1,729,738	1,471,997
<b>Total</b>	6	<b>463,938</b>	<b>8,115,166</b>	<b>914,783</b>	<b>9,493,887</b>	<b>9,136,087</b>
<b>Net income / (expenditure) before transfers</b>						
		149,659	329,948	(147,196)	332,411	(132,880)
Transfers between funds	11	(70,282)	(272,578)	342,860	-	-
<b>Net Income/(expenditure) for the year</b>		<b>79,377</b>	<b>57,370</b>	<b>195,664</b>	<b>332,411</b>	<b>(132,880)</b>
<b>Other recognised gains / (losses)</b>						
Actuarial (losses) gains on defined benefit pension scheme	17/22	-	773,000	-	773,000	(15,000)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>79,377</b>	<b>830,370</b>	<b>195,664</b>	<b>1,105,411</b>	<b>(147,880)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>						
Total funds brought forward at 01 September 2024		472,142	549,619	10,056,606	11,078,367	11,226,247
<b>Total funds carried forward at 31 August 2025</b>		<b>551,519</b>	<b>1,379,989</b>	<b>10,252,270</b>	<b>12,183,778</b>	<b>11,078,367</b>

All of the academy's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two financial periods.

A Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses is not required as all the gains and losses are included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

# SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST


## BALANCE SHEET

**31 AUGUST 2025**

		2025		2024	
	Note	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	12		9,734,255		10,364,279
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stock	13	7,364		3,894	
Debtors	14	1,342,196		886,290	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>1,902,863</u>		<u>1,441,467</u>	
		3,252,423		2,331,651	
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Creditors: amount falling due within one year	15	<u>(1,483,551)</u>		<u>(1,268,280)</u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>1,768,872</u>		<u>1,063,371</u>
<b>Total Assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>11,503,127</u>		<u>11,427,650</u>
Creditors: amount falling due after more than one year	16		(60,349)		(187,283)
<b>Net assets excluding pension asset / liability</b>			<u>11,442,778</u>		<u>11,240,367</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme asset / (liability)	22		<u>741,000</u>		<u>(162,000)</u>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>			<u><u>12,183,778</u></u>		<u><u>11,078,367</u></u>
<b>Funds of the academy trust :</b>					
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Fixed asset funds	17	10,252,270		10,056,606	
General funds	17	638,989		711,619	
Pension reserve	17	<u>741,000</u>		<u>(162,000)</u>	
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	17		11,632,259		10,606,225
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>					
General funds	17	<u>551,519</u>		<u>472,142</u>	
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>			<u>551,519</u>		<u>472,142</u>
<b>Total funds</b>			<u><u>12,183,778</u></u>		<u><u>11,078,367</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the governors, and authorised for issue on 09 December 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

  
Mr R Villiers-Smith

  
Mr S J Henneberry (Accounting Officer)

Company Registration Number: 07646748

# SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

	Year Ended 31 Aug 25 £	Year Ended 31 Aug 24 £			
<b>Reconciliation of net income / (expenditure) to net cashflow from operating activities</b>					
Net income / (expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	332,411	(132,880)			
<i>Adjusted for:</i>					
Interest receivable	(34,855)	(24,005)			
(Profit) / Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	(233)			
Depreciation	693,679	672,209			
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA	(718,997)	(23,637)			
Interest on finance lease rental payments	96,382	96,382			
Decrease/(increase) in stocks	(3,470)	(195)			
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(455,906)	(126,671)			
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	282,655	(153,053)			
Decrease/(increase) in salix loans included in above	14,455	14,456			
Defined benefit pension scheme costs less contributions payable.	(142,000)	(151,000)			
Defined benefit pension scheme net finance costs	12,000	16,000			
<b>Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities</b>	<b>76,354</b>	<b>187,373</b>			
<b>Cashflows from investing activities</b>					
Receipts from sale of tangible fixed assets	-	417			
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	(63,655)	(49,024)			
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA	718,997	23,637			
Interest received	34,855	24,005			
Interest on finance lease rental payments	(96,382)	(96,382)			
<b>Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities</b>	<b>593,815</b>	<b>(97,347)</b>			
<b>Cashflows from financing activities</b>					
Receipts from Salix loans	-	-			
Repayments made on Salix loans	(14,455)	(14,456)			
Capital element of finance lease rental payments	(194,318)	(194,318)			
<b>Net cash provided by / (used in) financing activities</b>	<b>(208,773)</b>	<b>(208,774)</b>			
<b>Increase / (Decrease) in cash in the year</b>	<b>461,396</b>	<b>(118,748)</b>			
<b>Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds</b>					
Increase/(decrease) in cash in the period	461,396	(118,748)			
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2024	1,441,467	1,560,215			
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2025</b>	<b>1,902,863</b>	<b>1,441,467</b>			
<b>Analysis of cash and cash equivalents</b>					
	<b>1 Sep 2024</b>	<b>Cash flows</b>	<b>31 Aug 2025</b>		
	£	£	£		
Cash in hand and at bank	1,441,467	461,396	1,902,863		
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>1,441,467</b>	<b>461,396</b>	<b>1,902,863</b>		
<b>Analysis of changes in net debt</b>					
	<b>1 Sep 2024</b>	<b>Cash flows</b>	<b>New</b>	<b>Other non-</b>	<b>31 Aug 2025</b>
	£	£	agreements	cash changes	£
Cash	1,441,467	461,396	-	-	1,902,863
Loans falling due within one year	(14,455)	14,455	-	(13,580)	(13,580)
Loans falling due after more than a year	(73,929)	-	-	13,580	(60,349)
Finance lease obligations	(307,673)	194,318	-	-	(113,355)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,045,410</b>	<b>670,169</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,715,579</b>

# SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

#### 1. Statement of Accounting Policies

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

##### General Information

The academy trust is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales and is an exempt charity. The address of the registered office is Dallam School, Milnthorpe, Cumbria, LA7 7DD.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

##### Basis of preparation

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

The trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

##### Going concern

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

##### Incoming resources

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 receivable

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

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

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

##### 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.

# SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### 1. Statement of Accounting Policies *(Continued)*

#### **Other income**

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

#### **Donated goods, facilities and services**

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

#### **Donated fixed assets**

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

#### **Deferred income**

Grants and other funding received for the Academy's educational activities for a period spanning the year end are deferred pro-rata to the relevant periods in order to match the funding to the period in which the costs of charitable activities are incurred.

#### **Expenditure**

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

#### **Expenditure on Raising Funds**

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

#### **Charitable activities**

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

All resources expended are exclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

# SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### 1. Statement of Accounting Policies (*Continued*)

#### **Tangible fixed assets**

Tangible fixed assets transferred on conversion to Academy status have been included in the accounts at valuation.

Land and buildings are classed as long leasehold if there is over 50 years unexpired lease term at the balance sheet date.

Tangible fixed assets since the Academy was established are included in the accounts at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

Single assets costing less than £2,000 or similar groups of assets purchased or ordered together of less than £2,000 are written off in the year of purchase.

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

#### **Depreciation**

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Freehold buildings	- straight line over the estimated economic life (24 to 53 years)
Long leasehold buildings	- straight line over the estimated economic life (31 to 60 years)
Long leasehold land	- straight line over the remaining life of the lease
Short leasehold land & buildings	- straight line over the remaining life of the lease
Plant and machinery	- straight line over the estimated economic life (10 to 32 years)
Furniture and equipment	- straight line over 5 years
ICT equipment	- straight line over 4 years
Motor vehicles	- 25% reducing balance

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost; depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use.

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.

No depreciation is provided on freehold land.

The total depreciation charge is allocated to direct costs and support costs pro-rata to the number of employees.

A full years depreciation is charged in the year of purchase and no charge is made in the year of disposal.

# SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### 1. Statement of Accounting Policies (*Continued*)

#### **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.

#### **Public Benefit Entity Concessionary Loans**

Public benefit entity concessionary loans shall initially be measured at the amount received and recognised in the statement of financial position. In subsequent years, the carrying amount of concessionary loans in the financial statements shall be adjusted to reflect any accrued interest payable.

#### **Provisions**

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

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

#### **Finance lease agreements**

Where the academy enters into a lease which entails taking substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of an asset, the lease is treated as a finance lease. The asset is recorded in the balance sheet as a tangible fixed asset and is depreciated in accordance with the above depreciation policies. Future instalments under such leases, net of finance charges, are included within creditors. Rentals payable are apportioned between the finance element, which is charged to the SOFA at a constant rate of charge on the balance of capital repayments outstanding, and the capital element which reduces the outstanding obligation for future instalments.

#### **Leased assets**

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged against profits on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

#### **Financial Instruments**

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

*Financial assets* – trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in the notes. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

*Financial liabilities* – trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in the notes. 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.

#### **Stock**

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

# SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### 1. Statement of Accounting Policies (*Continued*)

#### **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 taxation 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.

#### **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.

#### **Teachers' Pension Scheme**

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

#### **Local Government Pension Scheme**

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

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

#### **Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds reflect those resources which may be used towards meeting any of the objects of the Academy at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted fixed asset funds reflect the fixed assets and capital grants for the purchase of fixed assets to be used for charitable purposes.

Restricted general funds comprise grants, including the General Annual Grant (GAG), and other funding for educational purposes and any voluntary income to be used for specific purposes.

The Local Government Pension Scheme deficit is recognised against restricted general funds in order to match it against the GAG, in accordance with ESFA guidance.

Details of restricted and unrestricted funds are shown in the notes to the financial statements.

# SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### 1. Statement of Accounting Policies (*Continued*)

#### **Agency Arrangements**

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

#### **Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement**

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

#### *Critical accounting estimates, assumptions and judgements*

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

- The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in the notes, will impact on 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.
- Furthermore this year the pension asset has been restricted to any surplus of scheme assets over 110% of the scheme liabilities, in line with the schemes funding strategy.
- The annual depreciation charge is sensitive to the estimated useful economic lives of property. The useful economic lives of property, plant and equipment is initially based on the professional valuers report using their judgement and experience. The useful economic lives are assessed annually and changed when necessary to reflect current thinking on their remaining lives.

# SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

#### 2. Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Year Ended 31 Aug 25 £	Year Ended 31 Aug 24 £
ESFA Capital grants	-	718,997	718,997	23,637
Capital grants	-	48,590	48,590	-
Donations	2,200	-	2,200	2,460
Dallam School Charitable Trust Donation	103,000	-	103,000	103,000
	<u>105,200</u>	<u>767,587</u>	<u>872,787</u>	<u>129,097</u>
Less Boarding Capital Grants	-	(696,707)	(696,707)	-
	<u>105,200</u>	<u>70,880</u>	<u>176,080</u>	<u>129,097</u>
2024 total	<u>105,460</u>	<u>23,637</u>	<u>129,097</u>	

#### 3. Funding for Academy's educational operations

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Year Ended 31 Aug 25 £	Year Ended 31 Aug 24 £
<b>DfE / ESFA grants</b>				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	5,705,583	5,705,583	5,541,323
General Annual Grant (GAG) - Post 16	-	693,027	693,027	827,700
<b>Other DfE / ESFA grants</b>				
Pupil Premium	-	143,118	143,118	150,042
Teachers pay grant	-	89,921	89,921	91,781
Teachers pension grant	-	152,797	152,797	83,766
DfE NIC Grant	-	31,475	31,475	-
Core school budget grant	-	216,089	216,089	-
Mainstream schools additional grant	-	-	-	182,026
Recovery premium grant	-	-	-	34,776
National tutoring programme	-	-	-	2,574
Other ESFA grants	-	57,625	57,625	50,534
Other DfE Group grants	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>7,089,635</u>	<u>7,089,635</u>	<u>6,964,522</u>
Less Boarding exceptional circumstances funding	-	(290,700)	(290,700)	(290,700)
	<u>-</u>	<u>6,798,935</u>	<u>6,798,935</u>	<u>6,673,822</u>
<b>Other Government grants</b>				
Local Authority Funded Statements	-	130,554	130,554	150,853
Other Local Authority Grants	-	8,183	8,183	17,788
	<u>-</u>	<u>138,737</u>	<u>138,737</u>	<u>168,641</u>
<b>School Fund Income</b>	-	41,707	41,707	33,578
<b>Catering</b>	306,234	-	306,234	293,179
<b>Other Educational Operations</b>				
Educational Activities and Visits	-	215,483	215,483	291,830
Community & Outdoor Education	-	-	-	-
Other	4,450	531	4,981	12,152
	<u>310,684</u>	<u>7,195,393</u>	<u>7,506,077</u>	<u>7,473,202</u>
2024 total	<u>298,164</u>	<u>7,175,038</u>	<u>7,473,202</u>	

# SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

### 4. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Year Ended 31 Aug 25 £	Year Ended 31 Aug 24 £
Sports Lettings	95,508	-	95,508	85,719
Other Lettings	9,624	-	9,624	11,530
Insurance receipts	-	-	-	1,193
Insurance receipts - Boarding	-	-	-	-
Insurance receipts - Trips	-	-	-	-
Staff insurance receipts	-	-	-	-
Service Provision	57,726	-	57,726	76,450
	<u>162,858</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>162,858</u>	<u>174,892</u>
Less Boarding insurance receipts	-	-	-	-
	<u>162,858</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>162,858</u>	<u>174,892</u>
2024 total	<u>173,699</u>	<u>1,193</u>	<u>174,892</u>	

### 5. Investment Income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Year Ended 31 Aug 25 £	Year Ended 31 Aug 24 £
Bank Interest Receivable	34,855	-	34,855	24,005
	<u>34,855</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>34,855</u>	<u>24,005</u>
2024 total	<u>24,005</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,005</u>	

# SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

#### 6. Expenditure

	Staff Costs £	Non Pay Expenditure Premises      Other Costs £                      £		Year Ended 31 Aug 25 £	Year Ended 31 Aug 24 £
<b>Expenditure on raising funds</b>	97,739	26,173	-	123,912	141,961
<b>Academy's educational operations</b>					
Direct costs	4,489,096	143,335	335,411	4,967,842	4,960,746
Allocated support costs	1,204,789	672,359	559,979	2,437,127	2,233,421
Educational activities and school fund costs	-	-	235,268	235,268	327,962
	<u>5,693,885</u>	<u>815,694</u>	<u>1,130,658</u>	<u>7,640,237</u>	<u>7,522,129</u>
<b>Provision of boarding activities</b>					
Direct costs	-	137,887	-	137,887	151,868
Allocated support costs	495,267	745,810	350,774	1,591,851	1,320,129
	<u>495,267</u>	<u>883,697</u>	<u>350,774</u>	<u>1,729,738</u>	<u>1,471,997</u>
	<u><b>6,286,891</b></u>	<u><b>1,725,564</b></u>	<u><b>1,481,432</b></u>	<u><b>9,493,887</b></u>	<u><b>9,136,087</b></u>
2024 total	<u>6,151,572</u>	<u>1,368,507</u>	<u>1,616,008</u>	<u>9,136,087</u>	

#### Incoming/outgoing resources for the period

	Year Ended 31 Aug 25 £	Year Ended 31 Aug 24 £
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation	693,679	672,209
Loss / (profit) on disposal of fixed assets	-	(233)
Operating leases	9,091	9,091
Fees payable to auditor	15,040	14,180
- audit of the financial statements	15,040	14,180
- other assurance services	1,670	2,393
- other services	-	-
	<u>719,480</u>	<u>697,640</u>

#### 7. Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Year Ended 31 Aug 25 £	Year Ended 31 Aug 24 £
Teaching and educational support staff	35,824	-	35,824	12,692
Support staff costs	61,915	-	61,915	100,378
Maintenance of premises and equipment	9,204	-	9,204	11,064
Rent and rates	-	-	-	-
Heat and light	16,969	-	16,969	17,827
Catering	-	-	-	-
Printing, postage, stationery & photocopying	-	-	-	-
Advertising	-	-	-	-
Licence & affiliation fees	-	-	-	-
Other support costs	-	-	-	-
	<u>123,912</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>123,912</u>	<u>141,961</u>
2024 total	<u>141,961</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>141,961</u>	

# SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

8. Charitable Activities	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Year Ended 31 Aug 25 £	Year Ended 31 Aug 24 £
<b>Direct costs - educational operations</b>				
Teaching and educational support staff	-	4,489,096	4,489,096	4,481,032
Depreciation	-	143,335	143,335	144,952
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	-	-	(103)
Books, apparatus and stationery	-	85,789	85,789	84,361
Staff development	-	14,108	14,108	16,202
Examination fees	-	136,123	136,123	119,893
Educational consultancy	-	19,075	19,075	23,392
Academic intervention and tutoring	-	80,316	80,316	91,017
	-	<u>4,967,842</u>	<u>4,967,842</u>	<u>4,960,746</u>
<b>Direct costs - boarding</b>	-	<u>137,887</u>	<u>137,887</u>	<u>151,868</u>
	-	<u>5,105,729</u>	<u>5,105,729</u>	<u>5,112,614</u>
<b>Allocated support costs - educational operations</b>				
Support staff costs	162,057	1,042,732	1,204,789	1,021,764
Depreciation	-	210,224	210,224	183,321
(Profit) / Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	-	-	(130)
Recruitment and support	-	25,366	25,366	24,910
Maintenance of premises and equipment	-	158,214	158,214	167,288
Maintenance CIF	-	-	-	-
Professional fees	-	23,757	23,757	23,369
Legal fees	-	13,350	13,350	20,023
Cleaning	-	7,195	7,195	10,334
Rent and rates	-	64,999	64,999	59,016
Heat and light	-	180,069	180,069	110,770
Insurance	-	27,901	27,901	28,191
Transport	-	11,188	11,188	8,132
Catering	174,095	51,328	225,423	247,899
Printing, postage, stationery & photocopying	-	25,013	25,013	33,502
Advertising	-	24,271	24,271	32,598
Licence & affiliation fees	-	76,307	76,307	77,263
Telephone	-	3,062	3,062	8,407
Bank charges	-	11,356	11,356	14,709
Technology costs	-	93,162	93,162	111,129
Other support costs	3,874	5,505	9,379	7,628
	<u>340,026</u>	<u>2,054,999</u>	<u>2,395,025</u>	<u>2,190,123</u>
<b>Support costs - boarding</b>	-	<u>1,591,851</u>	<u>1,591,851</u>	<u>1,320,129</u>
	<u>340,026</u>	<u>3,646,850</u>	<u>3,986,876</u>	<u>3,510,252</u>
<b>Educational activities and school fund costs</b>				
Educational activities	-	198,614	198,614	291,830
Educational activities staff costs	-	-	-	-
School Fund expenditure	-	36,654	36,654	36,132
	-	<u>235,268</u>	<u>235,268</u>	<u>327,962</u>
<b>Support costs - governance</b>				
Legal fees	-	-	-	-
Professional fees	-	13,392	13,392	10,725
Support staff costs	-	-	-	-
Net finance costs in respect of defined benefit pension schemes	-	12,000	12,000	16,000
Auditors remuneration				
Audit of the financial statements	-	15,040	15,040	14,180
Other costs	-	1,670	1,670	2,393
	-	<u>42,102</u>	<u>42,102</u>	<u>43,298</u>
<b>Total direct and support costs</b>	<u>340,026</u>	<u>9,029,949</u>	<u>9,369,975</u>	<u>8,994,126</u>
2024 total	<u>333,255</u>	<u>8,660,871</u>	<u>8,994,126</u>	

# SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

#### 9. Staff costs and employee benefits

	Year Ended 31 Aug 25	Year Ended 31 Aug 24
	£	£
Staff costs during the period were:		
Wages and salaries	4,536,124	4,525,719
Social security costs	488,266	444,837
Operating costs of defined benefit pension schemes	1,071,302	994,679
Other employee benefits	-	-
Apprenticeship levy	7,713	7,848
	6,103,405	5,973,083
Supply staff costs	153,134	129,911
Staff restructuring costs	30,352	48,578
	6,286,891	6,151,572
Staff restructuring costs comprise:		
Redundancy payments	17,271	-
Severance payments	13,081	48,578
Other restructuring costs	-	-
	30,352	48,578

#### Severance payments

The academy trust paid **three** severance payments in the year, disclosed in the following bands:

	2025	
	No	
0 - £25,000	3	
£25,001 - £50,000	-	
£50,001 - £100,000	-	
£100,001 - £150,000	-	
£150,000+	-	
	3	

#### Special staff severance payments - Non statutory/non-contractual staff severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are non-statutory / non-contractual severance payments totalling £13,081 (2024: £48,578). Individually, the payments were: £6,410, £6,478, £193.

#### Staff numbers

The average number of persons employed by the Academy during the period was as follows:

	2025	2024
	No	No
Teachers	52	59
Administration and support	88	86
Management	8	9
	148	154

# SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

#### Higher paid staff

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

	2025 No	2024 No
£60,001 - £70,000	10	2
£70,001 - £80,000	2	3
£80,001 - £90,000	-	-
£90,001 - £100,000	-	2
£100,001 - £110,000	2	-
	<u>14</u>	<u>7</u>

#### Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was:

	2025 £	2024 £
Senior Management Team	969,672	904,266
Staff Governors	-	-
	<u>969,672</u>	<u>904,266</u>

# SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

### 10. Central Services

No central services were provided by the multi academy trust to its academies during the period and central charges arose.

### 11. Fund Transfers

During the period the following transfers were made between funds:

Transfers to / from General Annual Grant funds are analysed below:

Fixed asset additions in the year purchased by GAG	(37,536)
Transferred from general annual grant funds to the unrestricted catering fund to cover the overspend in the current period on the provision of catering to the academy's pupils.	(29,918)
	-
	(67,454)

Transfers to/from the general unrestricted funds are analysed below:

Transfer to community and outdoor education to cover overspend	-
Transfer from unrestricted funds to boarding restricted fund	(100,200)
	(100,200)

Transfers to the restricted fixed asset fund analysed below:

Fixed asset additions in the year purchased by GAG	37,536
Fixed asset additions in the year purchased by DFC	22,290
Fixed asset additions in the year purchased by Boarding	3,829
Proceeds from sale of assets used to purchase additions	-
<b>Total net additions during year</b>	<b>63,655</b>

Transfer from the boarding restricted general fund	
To cover depreciation charge on finance lease	194,318
School contribution on CIF Heating System	80,363
School contribution on CIF Fire Safety	26,814
Transfer from school unrestricted funds	-
Transfer from General Annual Grant funds	
School contribution on CIF electrical project	-
Transfers to / from ESFA DFC funds	(22,290)
Proceeds from sale of assets	-
<b>Total transfer to restricted fixed assets funds</b>	<b>342,860</b>

For transfers in relation to the restricted fixed asset finance lease fund please refer to the boarding trading account note to the accounts.

# SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### 12. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold		Long		Short		Assets Under Construction		Plant & Machinery		Furniture & Equipment		Motor Vehicles		ICT Equipment		Total			
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£		
Cost																				
As at 01 September 2024	4,386,033	7,063,214	4,066,490	-	-	2,603,629	213,818	62,185	94,449	18,489,818										
Reclassification	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Additions	-	-	-	-	-	63,655	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	63,655	
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
As at 31 August 2025	4,386,033	7,063,214	4,066,490	-	-	2,667,284	213,818	62,185	94,449	18,553,473										
Depreciation																				
As at 01 September 2024	1,043,892	1,665,979	3,547,525	-	-	1,557,017	181,332	59,496	70,298	8,125,539										
Charge in year	79,788	127,819	328,391	-	-	130,440	13,361	673	13,207	693,679										
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-										
As at 31 August 2025	1,123,680	1,793,798	3,875,916	-	-	1,687,457	194,693	60,169	83,505	8,819,218										
Net book value																				
As at 31 August 2025	3,262,353	5,269,416	190,574	-	-	979,827	19,125	2,016	10,944	9,734,255										
As at 31 August 2024	3,342,141	5,397,235	518,965	-	-	1,046,612	32,486	2,689	24,151	10,364,279										

### Valuation

The long leasehold land and buildings (structure and external works) and the freehold land and buildings (structure and external works) were valued at £6,969,044 and £4,386,033 respectively as at 01 August 2011 by Tony Snape MRICS Registered Valuer, who is independent of the charitable company. The basis of valuation of the assets was Existing Use Value using a Depreciated Replacement Cost approach in accordance with FRS15 Tangible Fixed Assets.

The integral services installations, classified as plant & machinery, in relation to the long leasehold land and buildings and freehold land and buildings were valued at £2,419,463 as at 01 August 2011 by Tony Snape MRICS Registered Valuer, who is independent of the charitable company. The basis of valuation of the assets was Existing Use Value using a Depreciated Replacement Cost approach in accordance with FRS15 Tangible Fixed Assets.

The short leasehold was valued at £2,850,000 as at 01 August 2011 by Tony Snape MRICS Registered Valuer, who is independent of the charitable company. The basis of valuation of the assets was Existing Use Value in accordance with Statement of Standard Accounting Practice No. 21 (SSAP 21) and classified as a Finance Lease and capitalised based on future rental payments at a 10% yield.

# SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

#### 12 Tangible Fixed Assets (continued)

##### Finance lease agreements

Included within the net book value of £9,374,255 (2024: £10,364,279) is £190,574 (2024: £518,965) relating to assets held under finance lease agreements. The depreciation charged to the financial statements in the year in respect of such assets amounted to £328,391 (2024: £333,273).

##### Lease arrangements

The academy has a 15 year lease with the Dallam School Charitable Trust for the use of the Heversham boarding site, which expires on 23 March 2026.

During the year ended 31 August 2018 the academy entered into a 9 year lease with the Dallam School Charitable Trust for the use of the Community Centre at the Milnthorpe site, which expires on 23 March 2026.

During the year ended 31 August 2022 the academy entered into a 3 year peppercorn lease with the Dallam School Charitable Trust for the use of Heversham St Peters C of E School, Leasgill, which expired on 14 February 2025.

13. Stock	2025	2024
	£	£
Catering	2,994	2,994
Educational supplies	3,000	-
Stationery	-	-
Other	1,370	900
	<u>7,364</u>	<u>3,894</u>

14. Debtors	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	444,088	402,877
VAT recoverable	108,627	72,700
Prepayments	251,533	364,565
Accrued income	537,948	34,898
Other debtors	-	11,250
	<u>1,342,196</u>	<u>886,290</u>

Included within prepayments is an amount of £169,575 (2024: £290,700) which relates to a rent for the boarding house paid in advance.

# SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

15. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	329,742	83,040
Taxation and social security	110,432	-
Sundry creditors	11,387	23,807
EFA creditor	4,824	3,798
Salix Loans	13,580	14,455
Accruals	112,298	85,092
Deferred income	694,433	759,405
Boarding deposits	93,500	104,364
Finance leases due within one year	113,355	194,319
	<u>1,483,551</u>	<u>1,268,280</u>
<b>Deferred income</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	£	£
Deferred income at 01 September 2024	759,405	634,306
Resources deferred in the year	694,433	759,405
Amounts released from previous years	(759,405)	(634,306)
Deferred income at 31 August 2025	<u>694,433</u>	<u>759,405</u>
Deferred income comprises:		
Boarding income in relation to the next financial year	685,796	671,188
School income for future trips	8,637	60,820
LA funded statements for September to March in the next financial year	-	-
EFA Rates rebate	-	27,397
	<u>694,433</u>	<u>759,405</u>

Included within creditors are public benefit concessionary loans (Salix loan) from the ESFA which is provided on the following terms. Repayable by instalments over 8 years with payments in arrears and are interest free.

16. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	2025	2024
	£	£
Salix Loans	60,349	73,929
Finance leases due after more than one year	-	113,354
	<u>60,349</u>	<u>187,283</u>

The finance lease is secured over the boarding facilities.

The following aggregate liabilities disclosed under creditors falling due after more than one year are due for repayment after more than five years from the balance sheet date:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Salix Loans	15,228	24,489
Finance leases	-	-
	<u>15,228</u>	<u>24,489</u>

# SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

17. Funds	Balance at 01-Sep £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains, Losses and Transfers £	Balance at 31-Aug £
<b>Restricted Fixed Asset Funds</b>					
Fixed Assets used for Charitable purposes					
Other	9,830,340	-	(353,559)	59,826	9,536,607
Boarding	533,939	-	(340,120)	3,829	197,648
Finance lease fund	(307,673)	-	-	194,318	(113,355)
ESFA formula capital fund	-	22,290	-	(22,290)	-
ESFA condition improvement fund					
Fire Safety - Boarding House	-	241,322	-	26,814	268,136
Heating System - Boarding House	-	455,385	(221,104)	80,363	314,644
Non ESFA Capital project	-	-	-	-	-
Other Capital Grants	-	48,590	-	-	48,590
	<u>10,056,606</u>	<u>767,587</u>	<u>(914,783)</u>	<u>342,860</u>	<u>10,252,270</u>
<b>Restricted General Funds</b>					
<b>DfE / ESFA Revenue Grants</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	1,034,729	6,107,910	(6,011,091)	(67,454)	1,064,094
Pupil Premium	-	143,118	(143,118)	-	-
Teachers pay grant	-	89,921	(89,921)	-	-
Teachers pension grant	-	152,797	(152,797)	-	-
DFE NIC Grant	-	31,475	(31,475)	-	-
Core School Budget Grant	-	216,089	(216,089)	-	-
Recovery premium grant	-	-	-	-	-
National tutoring programme	-	-	-	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA Grants	-	57,625	(57,625)	-	-
<b>Other Government Grants</b>					
Local Authority Funded Statements	-	130,554	(130,554)	-	-
Other Local Authority Grants	-	8,183	(8,183)	-	-
<b>Boarding Fund</b>	(410,498)	1,249,721	(1,168,514)	(205,124)	(534,415)
<b>School Funds</b>	87,388	41,707	(36,654)	16,869	109,310
<b>Other trading activities</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Other Educational Operations</b>					
Educational Activities and Visits	-	215,483	(198,614)	(16,869)	-
Community & Outdoor Education	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	531	(531)	-	-
	<u>711,619</u>	<u>8,445,114</u>	<u>(8,245,166)</u>	<u>(272,578)</u>	<u>638,989</u>
<b>Restricted Pension Reserve Funds</b>					
Pension reserve	(162,000)	-	130,000	773,000	741,000
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<u>549,619</u>	<u>8,445,114</u>	<u>(8,115,166)</u>	<u>500,422</u>	<u>1,379,989</u>
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>					
General Unrestricted Funds	266,041	211,855	(61,600)	(100,200)	316,096
Designated Sports Fund	206,101	95,508	(66,186)	-	235,423
Catering Fund	-	306,234	(336,152)	29,918	-
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	<u>472,142</u>	<u>613,597</u>	<u>(463,938)</u>	<u>(70,282)</u>	<u>551,519</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<u>11,078,367</u>	<u>9,826,298</u>	<u>(9,493,887)</u>	<u>773,000</u>	<u>12,183,778</u>

# SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

#### 17. Funds (continued)

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

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

##### **General Annual Grant (GAG) fund**

This represents the core funding for the educational activities of the school that has been provided to the academy via the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

##### **Pupil Premium**

This represents funding paid by the DfE to support disadvantaged students in their teaching and learning, with the aim of improving their attainment and closing the gap with their less disadvantaged peers.

##### **Teachers pay and pension grants**

Teachers pay grant is provided to support teacher pay awards. Teachers pension grant is provided to support the increase in employer contributions to the Teachers' Pension Scheme from September 2019.

##### **LA Funded Statements**

This represents funding paid by Cumbria County Council to support a continuum of provision for students with special educational needs (SEN), learning difficulties and disabilities.

##### **Boarding**

This represents funding paid by boarding students for the provision of boarding accommodation and associated activities.

##### **School Funds**

This represents restricted contributions to be extended on specific projects, activities and materials for the benefit of the pupils.

##### **Educational Activities and visits**

This represents mainly parental contributions. Voluntary income and educational income to be expended on specific projects, activities and materials for the benefit of the pupils.

##### **Sports Lettings**

This represents funding paid by external users of the sporting facilities, a designated fund to be used for the replacement of sports equipment and the resurfacing of the all weather pitch.

##### **Catering**

This represents funding relating to the provision of school meals for students and staff.

# **SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST**

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

### **YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

#### **Funds in Deficit**

Finance Lease Fund - this fund has been entered into the accounts within the restricted fixed assets funds in order to show in the fixed assets used for charitable purposes fund the full value of the fixed assets at the year end. The deficit balance on this fund is equal to the finance lease creditor disclosed in the accounts.

Boarding Fund - Trustees approved a balanced three-year budget, with healthy reserves for the period to 31/08/2028. As a result of the exceptional circumstances arising from Brexit and the Covid-19 pandemic, the Boarding Fund has been supported by a transfer of £100,000 from General Unrestricted Funds for the financial period ended 31/08/2025. The Head of Boarding has been provided with a healthy marketing budget to develop strong contacts with boarding agents and increase boarding student recruitment. As a result of these measures, we aim to bring the fund out of deficit by 2028.

# SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### 17. Funds (continued)

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

Funds	Balance at 01-Sep £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains, Losses and Transfers £	Balance at 31-Aug £
<b>Restricted Fixed Asset Funds</b>					
Fixed Assets used for Charitable purposes					
Other	10,129,035	-	(328,041)	29,346	9,830,340
Boarding	858,613	-	(343,936)	19,262	533,939
Finance lease fund	(501,991)	-	-	194,318	(307,673)
ESFA formula capital fund	-	23,637	(488)	(23,149)	-
ESFA condition improvement fund	-	-	-	-	-
Electrical - Milnthorpe	-	-	-	-	-
Electrical - Leasgill	-	-	-	-	-
Electrical - Boarding House	-	-	-	-	-
Electrical - Sports Hall	-	-	-	-	-
Non ESFA Capital project	-	-	-	-	-
Other Capital Grants	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>10,485,657</u>	<u>23,637</u>	<u>(672,465)</u>	<u>219,777</u>	<u>10,056,606</u>
<b>Restricted General Funds</b>					
<b>DfE / ESFA Revenue Grants</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	896,125	6,078,323	(5,894,883)	(44,836)	1,034,729
Pupil Premium	-	150,042	(150,042)	-	-
Teachers pay grant	-	91,781	(91,781)	-	-
Teachers pension grant	-	83,766	(83,766)	-	-
Schools supplementary grant	-	-	-	-	-
Mainstream schools additional grant	-	182,026	(182,026)	-	-
Recovery premium grant	-	34,776	(34,776)	-	-
National tutoring programme	-	2,574	(2,574)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA Grants	-	50,534	(50,534)	-	-
<b>Other Government Grants</b>					
Local Authority Funded Statements	-	150,853	(150,853)	-	-
Other Local Authority Grants	-	17,788	(17,788)	-	-
<b>Boarding Fund</b>	(371,068)	1,202,011	(1,128,061)	(113,380)	(410,498)
<b>School Funds</b>	89,942	33,578	(36,132)	-	87,388
<b>Other trading activities</b>	-	1,193	(1,193)	-	-
<b>Other Educational Operations</b>					
Educational Activities and Visits	-	291,830	(291,830)	-	-
Community & Outdoor Education	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	7,167	(7,167)	-	-
	<u>614,999</u>	<u>8,378,242</u>	<u>(8,123,406)</u>	<u>(158,216)</u>	<u>711,619</u>
<b>Restricted Pension Reserve Funds</b>					
Pension reserve	(282,000)	-	135,000	(15,000)	(162,000)
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<u>332,999</u>	<u>8,378,242</u>	<u>(7,988,406)</u>	<u>(173,216)</u>	<u>549,619</u>
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>					
General Unrestricted Funds	221,698	222,430	(77,887)	(100,200)	266,041
Designated Sports Fund	185,893	85,719	(65,511)	-	206,101
Catering Fund	-	293,179	(331,818)	38,639	-
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	<u>407,591</u>	<u>601,328</u>	<u>(475,216)</u>	<u>(61,561)</u>	<u>472,142</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<u>11,226,247</u>	<u>9,003,207</u>	<u>(9,136,087)</u>	<u>(15,000)</u>	<u>11,078,367</u>

# SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### 17. Funds (continued)

Total funds analysis by academy	2025	2024
Fund balance at 31 August 2025 were allocated as follows:		
Dallam School	1,190,508	1,183,761
Central Services	-	-
Total before fixed assets and pension reserve	<u>1,190,508</u>	<u>1,183,761</u>
Restricted fixed asset fund	10,252,270	10,056,606
Pension reserve	741,000	(162,000)
<b>Total</b>	<u><b>12,183,778</b></u>	<u><b>11,078,367</b></u>

### Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and Educational Support Staff Costs	Other Support Staff Costs	Educational Supplies	Other Costs (excluding dep'n)	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Dallam School	4,524,920	1,761,971	335,411	2,177,906	8,800,208	8,464,110
Central Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Academy Trust</b>	<u><b>4,524,920</b></u>	<u><b>1,761,971</b></u>	<u><b>335,411</b></u>	<u><b>2,177,906</b></u>	<u><b>8,800,208</b></u>	<u><b>8,464,110</b></u>
2024 total	<u>4,493,724</u>	<u>1,657,848</u>	<u>334,865</u>	<u>1,977,673</u>	<u>8,464,110</u>	

### 18. Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2025 are represented by:

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted General Funds	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	9,734,255	9,734,255
Current assets	551,519	1,907,468	793,436	3,252,423
Current liabilities	-	(1,208,130)	(275,421)	(1,483,551)
Long term creditors	-	(60,349)	-	(60,349)
Pension scheme asset / (liability)	-	741,000	-	741,000
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<u><b>551,519</b></u>	<u><b>1,379,989</b></u>	<u><b>10,252,270</b></u>	<u><b>12,183,778</b></u>

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

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted General Funds	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	10,364,279	10,364,279
Current assets	472,142	1,842,764	16,745	2,331,651
Current liabilities	-	(1,057,216)	(211,064)	(1,268,280)
Long term creditors	-	(73,929)	(113,354)	(187,283)
Pension scheme asset / (liability)	-	(162,000)	-	(162,000)
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<u><b>472,142</b></u>	<u><b>549,619</b></u>	<u><b>10,056,606</b></u>	<u><b>11,078,367</b></u>

**SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST  
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

<b>19. Long-term commitments, including under operating leases</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
At the balance sheet date the total of the Academy Trust's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:		
Assets other than land and buildings		
Amounts due within one year	9,091	9,091
Amounts due between two and five years inclusive	4,545	13,636
Amounts due after five years	-	-
	<b>13,636</b>	<b>22,727</b>

<b>20. Commitments Under Finance Leases</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
At 31 August 2025 the total of the Academy Trust's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable finance leases was:		
Land and buildings		
Amounts due within one year	169,575	290,700
Amounts due between two and five years inclusive	-	169,575
Amounts due after five years	-	-
	<b>169,575</b>	<b>460,275</b>

Dallam School has a 15 year lease with the Dallam School Charitable Trust (monthly rent of £24,225) for the use of the Heversham boarding site, which expires on 23 March 2026.

<b>21. Capital Commitments</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Contracted for, but not provided for in the financial statements	589,392	54,013
	<b>589,392</b>	<b>54,013</b>

# SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

#### 22. 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 Your Pension Service (YPS) for Westmorland & Furness Council. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2020 and of the LGPS to the period ended 31 March 2022.

Contributions payable to the schemes at 31 August and included in creditors were as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Teachers' Pension Scheme	-	-
Local Government Pension Scheme	-	-
	-	-

The total pension costs to the academy during the year ended 31 August and included in staff costs were as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Teachers' Pension Scheme	765,910	716,628
Local Government Pension Scheme	350,884	335,443
Local Government Pension Scheme deficit recovery	96,508	93,608
LGPS current service cost/contributions adjustment	(142,000)	(151,000)
	1,071,302	994,679

#### 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.

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

# SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

#### 22. Pension and similar obligations (Continued)

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £765,910 (2024: £716,628).

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 (LGPS)

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August were as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Employer's contributions	350,884	335,443
Employees' contributions	105,248	101,256
Local Government Pension Scheme deficit recovery	96,508	93,608
LGPS current service cost/contributions adjustment	<u>(142,000)</u>	<u>(151,000)</u>
Total contributions	<u>410,640</u>	<u>379,307</u>

The agreed contribution rates for future years are 20.4% for employers and 5.5% to 12.5% for employees depending on pay bands.

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

At the balance sheet date the scheme is in deficit. The Academy has previously entered into an agreement effective from 1 April 2014 to make additional contributions in addition to normal funding levels. It is anticipated that the payments will be made over 10 years from 1 April 2023, including £92,400 in 2023/24, £95,300 in 2024/25 and £98,200 in 2025/26.

# SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### 22. Pension and similar obligations (Continued)

The principal actuarial assumptions are:

	At 31 August 2025	At 31 August 2024
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.60%	2.60%
Rate of increase in salaries	4.10%	4.10%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment / inflation	2.70%	2.70%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	6.20%	5.00%

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

	At 31 August 2025	At 31 August 2024
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	21.4	21.4
Females	24.0	23.9
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	22.6	22.7
Females	25.5	25.6

#### Sensitivity analysis

The table below, as produced by Mercer sets out the impact of a small change in assumptions on the defined benefit obligation. The figures are based on the surplus /deficit in the scheme before any surplus restriction.

	At 31 August 2025		At 31 August 2024	
	Deficit	Change	Deficit	Change
Discount rate + 0.1%	(1,462,000)	(97,000)	42,000	(120,000)
Discount rate - 0.1%	(1,266,000)	99,000	284,000	122,000
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	(1,261,000)	104,000	303,000	141,000
Mortality assumption - 1 year decrease	(1,467,000)	(102,000)	24,000	(138,000)
CPI rate + 0.1%	(1,266,000)	99,000	284,000	122,000
CPI rate - 0.1%	(1,462,000)	(97,000)	42,000	(120,000)

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

	Fair value at 31 August 2025	Fair value at 31 August 2024
	£	£
Equities	2,760,000	2,467,000
Government bonds	1,088,000	994,000
Other bonds	-	-
Property	578,000	527,000
Cash / liquidity	76,000	149,000
Other	3,103,000	2,622,000
<b>Total market value of assets</b>	<b>7,605,000</b>	<b>6,759,000</b>
Present value of scheme liabilities		
- Funded	(6,240,000)	(6,921,000)
- Unfunded	-	-
<b>Surplus/(deficit) in the scheme</b>	<b>1,365,000</b>	<b>(162,000)</b>
Surplus restriction	(624,000)	-
<b>Surplus / (deficit) recognised in the financial statements</b>	<b>741,000</b>	<b>(162,000)</b>

# SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### 22. Pension and similar obligations (Continued)

#### Surplus Restriction

As noted above the actuary has valued the academy's share of the Cumbria LGPS to be a surplus of £1,365,000. The trust has restricted the amount of the surplus recognised as an asset, as FRS102 states that a surplus can only be recognised to the extent that it reduces future contributions. The rate of future contributions are set at the triennial reviews of the LGPS, the last one was at 31 March 2022. In the supporting valuation reports, this stated that only surpluses over 110% of liabilities are able to be returned to scheme participants through reduced future contributions. In the academy's case the assets do exceed 110% of the liabilities, therefore, under the scheme's current funding strategy the academy can reduce its future contributions. An asset of £741,000 has been recognised being the excess of assets over 110% of liabilities.

The actual return on scheme assets in the period was £384,000 (2024: 502,000).

None of the fair values of the assets shown above include any of the Academy's own financial instruments or any property occupied by, or other assets used by, the Academy.

Amounts recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities are as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Current service cost (net of employee contributions)	(306,000)	(279,000)
Administrative expenses	(14,000)	(13,000)
Past service (cost)/gain	-	-
Net Interest cost	2,000	(3,000)
Total operating charge	<u>(318,000)</u>	<u>(295,000)</u>
<b>Analysis of other recognised gains and (losses)</b>		
Remeasurements (liabilities)	1,361,000	(192,000)
Remeasurements (assets)	36,000	177,000
Surplus restriction movement	(624,000)	-
Total charge	<u>773,000</u>	<u>(15,000)</u>

# SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### 22. Pension and similar obligations (Continued)

Changes in the deficit / (surplus) in the year:	£	£
Deficit / (surplus) in scheme at 1 September 2024	162,000	282,000
Current service cost	306,000	279,000
Past service cost/(gain)	-	-
Interest cost	348,000	328,000
Employer contributions	(448,000)	(430,000)
Actuarial (gain)/loss - Remeasurements	(1,397,000)	15,000
Administration expenses	14,000	13,000
Interest income	(350,000)	(325,000)
Plan introductions, benefit changes, curtailments and settlements	-	-
<b>Deficit / (surplus) at 31 August 2025</b>	<u>(1,365,000)</u>	<u>162,000</u>
Surplus restriction	624,000	-
<b>Deficit / (Surplus) recognised in the financial statements</b>	<u>(741,000)</u>	<u>162,000</u>
<b>Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations were as follows:</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	£	£
At 01 September 2024	6,921,000	6,032,000
Current service cost	306,000	279,000
Interest cost	348,000	328,000
Employee contribution	105,000	102,000
Past service cost/(gain)	-	-
Actuarial (gains)/losses - remeasurements	(1,361,000)	192,000
Benefits/transfers paid	(79,000)	(12,000)
<b>Benefit obligation at 31 August 2025</b>	<u>6,240,000</u>	<u>6,921,000</u>
<b>Changes in the fair value of Academy's share of scheme assets:</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	£	£
At 01 September 2024	6,759,000	5,750,000
Return on plan assets	350,000	325,000
Administrative expenses	(14,000)	(13,000)
Actuarial gain/(losses) - remeasurements	36,000	177,000
Employer contributions	448,000	430,000
Employee contribution	105,000	102,000
Benefits/transfers paid	(79,000)	(12,000)
<b>Closing fair value of scheme assets at 31 August 2025</b>	<u>7,605,000</u>	<u>6,759,000</u>

# SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### 23. Related Party Transactions

Owing to the nature of the Academy Trust and the composition of the Board of Trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the Trustees have an interest.

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

The following related party transactions took place in the period of account:

#### Related parties

- *Dallam School Charitable Trust.*  
Mr R J Pirie (member), Mr R Villiers-Smith (trustee) and Mr S J Henneberry (Accounting Officer) who acted for the academy during the period also acted as trustees for Dallam School Charitable Trust. The trustees have no equitable interest in either entity.

#### Expenditure Related Party Transactions

- *Dallam School Charitable Trust.*  
Dallam School paid a monthly rent of £24,225 for the Counter Part Lease to the Dallam School Charitable Trust for the premises at the Heversham Site. During the year ended 31 August 2025 the total rent paid was £290,700 (2024: £290,700).

The rent payable is at arms length, the rental value was calculated by an independent valuer through Lloyds Bank. None of the trustees participated in, nor influenced this valuation.

At the year end there was upfront rental payments of £169,575 (2024: £290,700) which relates to a rent for the boarding house paid in advance.

In entering into the transaction the trust has complied with the requirements of the ESFA's Academies Financial Handbook.

#### Income Related Party Transactions

- *Dallam School Charitable Trust.*  
During the year Dallam School Charitable Trust made donations to the South Westmorland Multi Academy Trust of £108,000 (2024: £103,000). At the year end the South Westmorland Multi Academy Trust owed the Dallam School Charitable Trust £Nil (2024: £Nil).

# SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

#### 24. Related Party Transactions - Trustees' Remuneration and Expenses

One or more 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.

Other trustees did not receive any payments, other than expenses, from the academy in respect of their role as trustees.

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

Mr S Henneberry (Headteacher and ex-officio trustee):

Remuneration	£100,000 to £104,999	(2024: £90,000 to £94,999)
Employer's pension contributions	£25,000 to £29,999	(2024: £20,000 to £24,999)

The trustees received £Nil (2024: £Nil) expenses in the year ended 31 August 2025.

#### 25. Trustees' and Officers' Insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice the academy has purchased insurance to protect governors and officers from claims for negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The insurance for the year ended 31 August 2025 provides cover up to £10,000,000 (2024: £5,000,000) on any one loss and any one membership year.

The academy's insurance is via the Department for Education's risk protection arrangement (RPA) and the cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost. It is not possible to quantify the trustees and officers indemnity element from the overall cost of the RPA scheme membership.

#### 26. Members Liability

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

#### 27. Agency Arrangements

The academy trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for ESFA. The receipts and distributions during the year have been excluded from the statement of financial activities. An amount is included in other creditors relating to undistributed funds that is repayable to ESFA as shown below:

	2025	2024
Fund balance at 01 September 2024	-	28,829
Receipts from ESFA during the year	10,494	8,443
Repayment of bursary to the ESFA	-	(20,533)
Distributions during the year	(5,670)	(16,739)
Fund balance at 31 August 2025	<u>4,824</u>	<u>-</u>

In accordance with the guidance in the accounts direction the 16-19 bursary has been treated as an agency arrangement as the trust is acting as a paying agent for the ESFA.

# SOUTH WESTMORLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

### 28. Academy Boarding Trading Account

	Year Ended 31 Aug 25		Year Ended 31 Aug 24	
Income	£	£	£	£
<i>Allocated to general boarding fund</i>				
Fee income	789,127		746,916	
Other income	169,894		164,395	
Insurance receipts	-		-	
Exceptional government funding (see note 3)	290,700		290,700	
<i>Allocated to restricted fixed asset boarding fund</i>		1,249,721		1,202,011
Grant income	696,707		-	
Gifts in kind (see note 3)	-		-	
		696,707		
<b>Expenditure</b>				
<i>Allocated to general boarding fund</i>				
Staff costs	495,267		535,706	
Maintenance	120,091		75,386	
Finance charge	96,382	*	96,382	
Rates	49,732		104,873	
Heat & light	138,669		75,483	
Cleaning	13,981		12,930	
Staff development	686		315	
Catering	109,720		93,730	
Reprographics	921		783	
Bank charges	1,404		1,185	
Transport	7,935		7,886	
Recharges	45,699		40,253	
Commission	25,116		21,959	
Legal fees	4,425		6,061	
Professional fees	12,606		3,863	
Other	45,880		51,266	
<i>Allocated to restricted fixed asset boarding fund</i>		(1,168,514)		(1,128,061)
Maintenance	221,104		-	
Legal and professional	-		-	
Depreciation on finance lease	194,318	*	194,318	
Depreciation	145,802		149,618	
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-		-	
		(561,224)		(343,936)
<b>Trading Statement Surplus/ (Deficit) on Boarding</b>		216,690		(269,986)
<b>Boarding Funds Reconciliation</b>				
	<b>Restricted General Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Fixed Asset Funds</b>	<b>Finance Lease Asset Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>
	£	£	£	£
Boarding funds surplus/ (deficit) brought forward	(410,498)	533,939	(307,673)	(184,232)
Trading statement surplus/ (deficit)	81,207	135,483	-	216,690
<b>Boarding funds before transfers</b>	(329,291)	669,422	(307,673)	32,458
Assets purchased during the period	(3,829)	3,829	-	-
Transfer to boarding fund from unrestricted funds	100,200	-	-	100,200
Contribution to CIF project and fund Salix loan	(107,177)	107,177	-	-
Depreciation charge on finance lease	(194,318)	-	194,318	-
<b>Boarding funds carried forward</b>	(534,415)	780,428	(113,355)	132,658

\* This represents the rental payments across to the Dallam School Charitable Trust during the period.