

St John's Catholic School for the Deaf

Registered Charity Number 529319

Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended
31 August 2025



Where every voice is heard and celebrated

ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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TRUSTEE, BOARD OF SCHOOL GOVERNORS AND ADVISORS

St John's Catholic School for the Deaf is an unincorporated charity registered in England and Wales, registration number 529319.

TRUSTEE

Diocese of Leeds Trustee

(Company registration number 2886244)

Directors of the Diocese of Leeds Trustee

Rt Rev M Stock	(Bishop of Leeds)
Rev Mgr P Fisher	(Vicar General)
Rev Mgr A Summersgill	(Vicar General)
Very Rev E Hegerty	
Deacon J Walsh	(appointed 29 August 2025)
Ms M Benton	
Mr L Corcoran	
Mr L Kelly	
Mr P McDermott	
Mr W O'Neill	
Ms C Stockton-Jones	(appointed 29 August 2025)
Mr P Wilson	

Company Secretary of the Diocese of Leeds Trustee

Mr J Moran

Registered Offices

Trustee

Diocese of Leeds Trustee	Hinsley Hall, 62 Headingley Lane, Leeds, LS6 2BX
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Charity

St John's School for the Deaf	Church Street, Boston Spa, Wetherby, LS23 6DF
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TRUSTEE, BOARD OF SCHOOL GOVERNORS AND ADVISORS (continued)

BOARD OF SCHOOL GOVERNORS

Foundation Governors

Mrs C Brooks	(Chair)
Mr T Forbes	
Mr A Morley	
Mr J Podlewski	
Mrs J Tarr	(Vice Chair)
Mrs A Windle	
Deacon J Walsh	(appointed 16 September 2025)

Representative Governors

Mrs N Harrington	LEA
Mr G Riley	Parent
Mrs K Pirie	Teaching staff
Mrs J Peacock	Non-teaching staff

Head Teacher and Governor

Mr K Harrington

ADVISORS

Auditor

Saffery LLP, 10 Wellington Place Leeds, LS1 4AP

Banker

HSBC Bank plc, 7 Prospect Crescent, Harrogate, HG1 1RN

Investment Manager

Rathbone Investment Management, 1 Curzon Street, London, W1J 5FB

Solicitors

Wrigleys Solicitors LLP, 3rd Floor, 3 Wellington Place, Leeds LS1 4AP

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEE

The Trustee presents its Annual Report and the audited Financial Statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 August 2025.

STRUCTURE

Constitution

St John's Catholic School for the Deaf is a registered charity with the registration number 529319. The Charity was originally founded under a Trust Deed dated 1870 and in its current form by a Trust Deed dated 24 February 1953. The sole Trustee of the Charity is a trust corporation, the Diocese of Leeds Trustee, company registration number 2886244.

In support of the mission of the Catholic Church, the principal objective of the Charity is to provide a school for the education of children suffering from disabilities of mind or body and in need of special educational provision, where the values reflect the ideals of the life and teachings of Christ, and "where every voice is heard and celebrated."

The Trustee confirms that it has complied with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission, including the guidance "Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)" in determining the activities undertaken by the Charity, in particular, to its supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing education and fee charging.

The outcomes and achievements of the pupils are part of this public benefit, as they take their place in the wider world when they leave the School. The School's facilities are used by a local junior football club at the weekends as well as Guide, Brownie, Cub and Scout groups. During the summer, the School hosts the Boston Spa Gala and is a venue for fundraising events for St Edward's Church. The School works closely with local mainstream schools, providing specialist advice and guidance to a network of Special Educational Needs Coordinators.

Throughout this Report, the Trustee seeks to demonstrate that the Charity's aims and objectives are for the public benefit.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEE (continued)

GOVERNANCE

Trustee

The Directors of the Trustee are appointed by the Bishop of Leeds, who is Chair of the Board. There were four Trustee Board meetings during the financial year.

The Bishop of Leeds and the Vicars General are ex officio Directors of the Board. All other Directors are appointed for a term of three years, which may be renewed, subject to performance and review, for an additional two terms of three years each.

Directors are recruited from Clergy and suitably qualified and experienced Lay People from the wider Catholic community. On appointment, new Directors are introduced to their role and responsibilities by the Vicars General and the Company Secretary, at which time copies of the Trust Deed and the latest financial information are issued. Directors attend formal and informal training sessions as required.

The Trustee Board delegates oversight of the Charity's Investment and Property portfolios to a Finance Sub-Committee ("the FSC"), which meets on a monthly basis. During the year under review, the FSC comprised nine members; Monsignor A Summersgill (Chair) and Monsignor P Fisher, Vicars General, Mr W O'Neill, Mr P Wilson, Deacon J Walsh and Ms C Stockton-Jones, who are current Directors, Mr T Forbes, who is a School Foundation Governor, Very Reverend Canon G Kearney and Very Reverend Canon M Larkin. FSC members are supported and advised by the Company Secretary and members of Senior Management.

As disclosed in Note 7 to the Financial Statements, Directors do not receive any payments in respect of their Office. No reimbursement of expenses was paid to the Directors of the Trustee in either the current year or the prior year.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEE (continued)

GOVERNANCE (continued)

Board of School Governors

The operation of the School is overseen by the Board of School Governors.

The Board is comprised of: Foundation Governors recruited from the local and wider community and appointed by the Bishop of Leeds for a period of four years; the Parent Representative, who is elected for a period of three years; the Teaching Staff Representative and the Non-Teaching Staff Representative, who are each elected for four years; and the LEA Representative.

New governors receive a structured induction. All governors have access to a wide range of training opportunities provided by the Diocese of Leeds Vicariate for Education, Local Education Authorities, and other services such as The Key for School Governors (online) and Leeds Governor Support Service. A designated Training Governor maintains a log of required and completed training. Governors also complete a skills audit to ensure there is a broad and balanced range of expertise across the Governing Board.

Governors are encouraged to visit the School regularly and are invited to attend Masses, special celebrations and other events throughout the year.

Deacon J Walsh is also a Director of the Trustee and a member of the Trustee's Finance Sub-Committee, and Mr T Forbes is a member of the Trustee's Finance Sub-Committee.

The Head Teacher is an ex officio member of this Board. The day-to-day running of the School is delegated to the Head Teacher, who is supported by a Senior Leadership Team.

The Board of Governors delegates some of its powers to the following Sub-Committees:

- Quality of Education Sub-Committee
- Finance and Health and Safety Sub-Committee
- Human Resources Sub-Committee
- Student Care Sub-Committee
- Appeals Panel

Membership of these Sub-Committees is drawn from the Board of Governors. The Sub-Committees are supported by the appropriate members of the School's Senior Leadership Team.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEE (continued)

GOVERNANCE (continued)

Senior Leadership Team

The School's Senior Leadership Team, led by the Head Teacher, is responsible to the Board of Governors for the management of the School. The Team consists of the following positions:

- Head Teacher
- Deputy Head Teacher
- Assistant Head Teacher
- Head of Residential Care
- School Business Manager

The Trustee Company Secretary meets regularly with members of the School's Senior Leadership Team.

A partnership between Governors and the Senior Leadership Team has developed an effective system for checking the performance of all staff, which rewards good teaching and addresses underperformance.

The Senior Leadership Team have set out a new School Development Plan to 31 August 2027 with six strategic strands aligned with the School's mission: Inspiring learning, nurturing wellbeing, strengthening Catholic life, developing leadership, enhancing residential care and improving infrastructure.

The remuneration of the Senior Leadership Team is determined by the School's pay and performance management policies. The remuneration of the Senior Leadership Team is disclosed in Note 7 to the Financial Statements.

Safeguarding

The welfare of the pupils and their protection from harm is of the highest importance for the Bishop, Directors, Governors and School Staff. This is achieved by the implementation of robust staff recruitment, safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures. Safeguarding practice is scrutinised by named Governors.

During the year, the School appointed a new Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) who is supported by three deputy DSLs, including the Headteacher. The School has adopted the use of online training resources, including 'The Key for Schools' and resources provided through TES Safeguarding. The School continues to engage with Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership (<https://www.leedsscp.org.uk>) and complies fully with its guidance and procedures.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEE (continued)

GOVERNANCE (continued)

Health and Safety

The Directors and Board of School Governors keep under review the School's Health and Safety Policy and work with Health and Safety professionals to ensure that its processes and procedures follow best practice.

The Finance and Health & Safety Sub-Committee continues to monitor compliance, risk management, capital investment and resources to ensure adherence to Health and Safety standards and to maintain the School buildings. A major fire safety upgrade was completed in the year ended 31 August 2025, including the installation of 63 fire doors and a new alarm system.

Reputation

The School's continued success depends upon its good reputation. The Board of School Governors monitors the effectiveness of teaching and learning. OFSTED inspection reports are published on the School's website. The School also has robust and regularly updated policies and procedures to guard against fraud or the misappropriation of the School's funds and assets.

Fundraising

The Charity ensures that it follows the Code of Fundraising Practice in its fundraising methods, and it does not employ outside agencies to raise funds. In the year ended 31 August 2025, no complaints were received in respect of fundraising. The Charity raises additional funds principally by applying for grants from appropriate grant awarding bodies, and these are supplemented by the School's community fundraising events.

Edward Witham Dawson Charity

The Edward Witham Dawson Charity is a Linked Charity, established under a Trust Deed dated 31 January 1925, and its amendment dated 10 April 2022. The income of the Charity is used to support the work of the School, to provide and facilitate educational facilities and opportunities for people with physical or mental disabilities and to provide grants for the benefit of people with physical or mental disabilities. The Charity is a Restricted Fund within the School Account and its financial performance is disclosed in Note 16(b) to the Financial Statements. The governance of this Charity is overseen by the Directors of the Trustee and by a Board of Trustees:

Mr T Forbes	(Foundation Governor)
Mr K Harrington	(Headteacher)
Rev D Murray	(resigned 31 August 2025)
Rev S Molloy	(School Chaplain) (appointed 15 October 2025)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEE (continued)

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Aims

St John's Catholic School for the Deaf is a Catholic specialist, non-maintained, day and residential school, founded over 150 years ago.

The Trustee aims to provide an outstanding school community where values reflect the ideals of the life and teachings of Christ, and "where every voice is heard and celebrated," a school where spoken language is used, and where every young person communicates equally and successfully with others.

The School has evolved to welcome pupils with a broader range of needs, including autism, sensory processing challenges and language or learning difficulties. These pupils benefit from the School's expertise in developing communication, social skills and emotional wellbeing.

Neighbouring Local Authorities increasingly place pupils who have been out of education for extended periods, often due to emotionally based school avoidance because of the School's reputation for exceptional pastoral and mental health support.

The School offers a fresh start for young people who have struggled to meet age-related expectations in mainstream or other specialist settings. This is achieved through a calm, accepting environment focused on rebuilding confidence and self-esteem.

The School serves a wide catchment area across the North of England and provides residential care from Monday to Friday for pupils who live further afield. The School's reputation for supporting vulnerable children is widely recognised by both Local Authorities and parents, which has led to a marked increase in referrals and consultations in recent years. As a result, the pupil roll has grown rapidly, reaching 90 pupils in September 2025. To meet this rising demand, new staff have been appointed across all areas of the School.

The School employs speech and language therapists who design and deliver personalised programmes tailored to each pupil's needs. On-site audiological support ensures that pupils with hearing aids or cochlear implants benefit from optimal amplification. Therapists work collaboratively with teachers, learning support assistants, and residential care staff to develop the language skills pupils need for both academic success and social interaction.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEE (continued)

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (continued)

Aims (continued)

The School has an outward-looking approach and collaborates with a range of local and national partners who include:

- The Wharfe Valley Learning Partnership (WVLP): a group of local Schools comprising 10 primaries and one secondary School.
- Communion of Leeds Diocese Secondary Schools (COLDS): 14 Catholic High Schools in the Diocese of Leeds.
- National Association of Special Schools (NASS): over 300 non-maintained special Schools.

The School's work at the forefront of improving young people's mental health and wellbeing has been recognised by a number of groups who have asked the School to make presentations to their members. The School's approach in reducing self-harm and suicidal ideation has been included in national conferences for both the National Association of Special Schools (NASS) and the School and Public Health Nurses' Association (SAPHNA).

Activities, Achievements and Performance

Mental Health and Wellbeing

The Thrive Approach is now embedded across the School and its residential care. The Thrive Approach is a therapeutic framework that supports the social and emotional development of children and young people. It helps staff identify individual needs and tailor interventions to build resilience, emotional well-being, and positive relationships, enabling pupils to engage more effectively in learning.

In the year ended 31 August 2025, the Deputy Head Teacher became a Thrive licensed trainer, enabling her to lead training for Thrive practitioner courses and is currently training nine staff as licensed Thrive practitioners.

Staff wellbeing is also well supported through supervision, reflective practice, wellbeing weeks and external support from Westfield Health.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEE (continued)

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (continued)

Activities, Achievements and Performance (continued)

Curriculum and Educational Outcomes

The School's curriculum is thoughtfully structured to equip pupils for adult life by nurturing self-confidence and encouraging the discovery and development of their unique talents and laying the groundwork for aspirational learning. Many pupils join the School with considerable gaps in their knowledge, necessitating targeted catch-up programmes and additional support from staff who are skilled in a broad spectrum of special educational needs. The School remains firmly committed to ongoing improvement, embracing the principle that the pursuit of excellence in teaching and learning is a continuous journey.

Curriculum development remains a strategic priority, with three distinct pathways now offered;

- A personalised pathway. For pupils with more complex learning needs a personalised pathway is designed to broaden their skill application and develop communicative competence in social settings. The aim is to help these young people become less reliant on others and improve emotional regulation. They engage in a wide range of sensory and social experiences, gaining greater autonomy and choice in their learning as they move through the school.
- A semi-formal pathway. Pupils may achieve some formal qualifications alongside vocational life skills.
- A formal pathway. Pupils work towards external qualifications and accreditations by Year 11, with many progressing to college and higher education.

All curriculum pathways enable pupils to achieve appropriate external accreditation ranging from ASDAN Life Skills awards for pupils with complex needs to GCSE and A Levels. The curriculum is built around each pupil's strengths, supporting them to achieve academic qualifications that prepare them for the next stage in education or employment. It also provides opportunities to address gaps in learning, particularly for those who have experienced extended periods out of school.

The School's Sixth Form also offers three distinct pathways, providing access to a broad range of academic and vocational courses. These are delivered either in partnership with local Further Education colleges or through a school-based programme.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEE (continued)

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (continued)

Curriculum and Educational Outcomes (continued)

A key curriculum priority is to embed the progress made in reading through personalised interventions and to continue improving pupils' writing using the 'Talk for Writing' approach. Developed by Pie Corbett, this literacy framework uses spoken language activities to help pupils internalise language structures through imitation, innovation and independent application. St John's is now recognised as a Talk for Writing Showcase School, contributing to national SEND publications and welcoming visitors from across the UK to observe best practice during showcase days.

The wider curriculum provides pupils with meaningful opportunities for environmental education and community engagement. These include caring for the School's chickens, growing vegetables, and working with local partners such as the parish church of St Edward the Confessor in Clifford and the Chocolate Factory social enterprise in Harrogate.

Outcomes for the year ended 31 August 2025 were strong across GCSEs, vocational qualifications and Life Skills awards. All Year 11 students progressed to either college-based or school-based sixth form programmes. Post Year 11 leavers successfully transitioned into university, apprenticeships or supported employment. The School is proud to maintain a record of never having a NEET (a pupil 'not in education, employment or training') after leaving.

The School's examination results and good news stories are regularly shared through newsletters, social media platforms, and the School's website (www.stjohns.org.uk). Parents stay informed about their children's learning via half-termly curriculum plans and a secure media platform called Seesaw, which allows staff to share photos and videos directly.

Staff training and specialist assessment tools have been enhanced to better track the progress of autistic pupils. The School is currently working towards reaccreditation for the Autism Specialist Award, originally achieved in May 2023.

Staff Appointments

New appointments in the year ended 31 August 2025 include Teachers, Learning Support Assistants, a School Nurse, a Speech and Language Therapist and Residential Care staff. Recruitment currently remains ongoing for residential care staff, LSAs and an additional Speech Therapist.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEE (continued)

INSPECTION REPORTS

Boarding School Mental Health Award

In December 2024, the School underwent reaccreditation for the Boarding School Mental Health Award, facilitated by Leeds Beckett University's Carnegie Centre of Excellence. This rigorous assessment evaluates how well schools support mental health and wellbeing across eight key competencies. The School was awarded a Gold Level, the highest rating, with the school excelling in every category. The report highlighted the School's strategic leadership, inclusive culture, and innovative practices that position the School as a national example of excellence in mental health provision.

"They are a lighthouse to other schools and communities through the gift of time, knowledge and support."

"St John's Catholic Specialist School truly shine a light of confidence, empowerment and hope for others in the deaf community and beyond."

"Mental health and wellbeing are embedded in the curriculum... taught by well-trained and enthusiastic teachers using positive, experiential and interactive methods."

"Pupils feel their worries and concerns are heard, respected, and taken seriously by staff."

Residential Care OFSTED Inspection

In January 2025, Ofsted conducted a full inspection of the residential provision at the School under the Social Care Common Inspection Framework. The School was judged "Outstanding" across all three categories:

- Overall experiences and progress of children and young people
- How well children and young people are helped and protected
- The effectiveness of leaders and managers

The report praised the School's unwavering commitment to children's wellbeing, its transparent leadership, and the nurturing, aspirational environment created for residential pupils. The inspection recognised how the School's Catholic identity is woven into its care and safeguarding practices:

"There is an unrelenting commitment from staff, leaders and managers to prioritise children's needs. This is underpinned by the determination from leaders and managers not to compromise the values and faith that the school promotes."

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEE (continued)

INSPECTION REPORTS (continued)

Residential Care OFSTED Inspection (continued)

"Staff lovingly and skilfully cherish and harness children's individual traits, personalities and talents."

"Staff say they feel they make an important contribution to the school and that the experience and knowledge they bring are respected and valued."

Section 48 Catholic Schools Inspection

A Section 48 inspection by the Catholic Schools Inspectorate took place in June 2025, fulfilling statutory requirements under the Education Act 2005. The School was graded "Outstanding" (Grade 1) in all areas:

- Catholic Life and Mission
- Religious Education
- Collective Worship

The inspection praised the School's deep commitment to its Catholic identity, inclusive ethos, and the way faith informs every aspect of school life. The report highlighted how the School nurtures both Catholic students and those of other beliefs, creating a community where every voice is heard and celebrated.

"Students at St John's... feel 'safe, valued and inspired'. Their behaviour is exemplary. Students want to do hard work because they are motivated by an overriding sense of purpose and personal joy."

"Students are engaged by prayer and liturgy at St John's because its content is rooted in present, personal and community intentions."

"The School strives to provide the highest levels of pastoral care that eliminates student vulnerability, thereby showing through action that Christ is at the heart of life at St John's."

"Staff train students to plan, participate and to lead... prayer and liturgy is used meaningfully to encourage an encounter with personal faith."

DONATIONS

The Trustee and Governors are grateful to all their donors whose generosity has enabled the School to purchase a range of classroom resources as well as sports equipment. The purchase of these resources has made significant improvements in the provision of learning and improved extra curricula activities for all its pupils.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEE (continued)

FUTURE PLANS

The key areas for development are set out below:

- Quality of Education
To ensure consistent and inclusive implementation across pathways, to promote excellence in personal development and wellbeing education, to strengthen the integration of SALT and audiology into curriculum planning
- Behaviour, Mental Health and Wellbeing
To enhance early intervention and referral systems, to build staff capacity for trauma-informed and emotionally intelligent behaviour support, to empower pupil voice and celebrate neurodiversity.
- Leadership and Management:
To strengthen the School's succession planning and governor development, to enhance safeguarding and inclusive practice and integrate AI to enhance curriculum, operations and inclusion.
- RE, Catholic Life and Mission
To further strengthen leadership, governance, and staff formation in Catholic Life and RE, to enrich the School's collective worship through creativity and inclusion and deepen spiritual encounter through retreats and community partnerships.
- Residential Provision Strengthen
To transition plan for pupils and their student voice, embed trauma-informed and therapeutic practice and promote consistency in sensory regulation and communication tools.
- Buildings, Environment, and Infrastructure
To improve sensory-friendly and digitally safe environments, develop outdoor learning and biodiversity spaces, to strengthen IT infrastructure and digital accessibility.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEE (continued)

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The table below summarises the financial activities of the School and its Investments during the year.

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
School		
Income	4,263	3,680
Expenditure	(3,723)	(3,362)
Surplus	<u>540</u>	<u>318</u>
Net Gains Investment Assets	16	33
Increase in Reserves	<u>556</u>	<u>351</u>
 Investments		
Income	167	172
Expenditure	(117)	(137)
Surplus	<u>50</u>	<u>35</u>
Net Gains Investment Assets	171	391
Increase in Reserves	<u>221</u>	<u>426</u>
 Increase in Reserves	<u>777</u>	<u>777</u>

Details of the income and expenditure are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 24.

The total income for the Charity in the year was £4,430k (2024: £3,852k) an increase of 15% compared with the prior year. The largest individual component of income is School Fees, amounting to £3,164k (2024: £2,845k) an increase of 11% compared with the prior year. The level of School Fees is dependent both on the number of Pupils on the School register (82 pupils in the current year compared with 73 Pupils in the prior year) and the needs of individual pupils.

The total expenditure in the year was £3,840k (2024: £3,499k) an increase of 10% compared with the prior year. This underlying expenditure continues to be tightly managed and monitored whilst delivering the Charity's principal objectives.

The Net Income for the year was £590k (2024: Net Income £353k).

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEE (continued)

FINANCIAL REVIEW (continued)

The Cash Flow Statement on page 27 reports a net increase in cash and cash equivalents of £525k (2024: decrease £256k). Cash Flows from Operating Activities were £499k (2024: £77k) in the year. There were cash inflows of £26k (2024: outflow £333k) from Investing Activities, principally investments in Fixed Assets.

Investment Policy and Performance

As disclosed in Note 10 to the Financial Statements, the Charity holds a portfolio of investment properties that are either held for a long-term rental income stream or are surplus to meeting its principal charitable objectives and are planned for long-term sale.

The Trust Deed authorises the Trustee to make and hold investments using the general funds of the Charity. The Charity operates an ethical investment policy and has agreed an investment strategy with the investment managers. The investment managers manage the funds and their portfolio of investments on a discretionary basis within these guidelines. The Market Value of Investments reported in the Financial Statements at 31 August 2025 was £3,578k (2024: £3,750k). The movements are analysed in Note 11 to the Financial Statements. This includes Investment Income generated of £61k (2024: £73k) and an increase in market valuations of £187k (2024: an increase of £424k).

Reserves Policy

The Total Funds of the Charity at 31 August 2025 were £11,842k (2024: £11,065k) of which £2,680k (2024: £2,124k) related to the School and £9,162k (2024: £8,941k) related to Investments.

The Reserves Policy of the Charity is to hold Unrestricted Free Reserves in the School Account equivalent to at least one term of the School's Charitable Expenditure. School Free Reserves are defined as School Unrestricted Funds less School Total Fixed Assets. Funds invested in School Tangible Fixed Assets are excluded from School Free Reserves as these funds cannot be released without undermining the Charity's ability to fulfil its principal charitable objectives.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEE (continued)

Reserves Policy (continued)

Total School Free Reserves of £2,114k (2024: £1,554k) are higher than the desired equivalent of one term's School Charitable Expenditure of £1,240k (2024: £1,110k), which reflects the School's robust budgeting and cash flow planning management and therefore the Trustee is satisfied that the Funds of the Charity are sufficient to meet its immediate financial obligations and commitments. The additional reserves will be used to improve School equipment.

The Charity's Total Free Reserves at 31 August 2025 were £7,487k (2024: £6,706k).

Total Funds included £506k (2024: £481k) in Restricted Funds. The allocation of Restricted Funds are determined by the wishes of the donors and are disclosed in Note 16(b) to the Financial Statements. Unrestricted Funds of £11,336k (2024: £10,584k) comprise the Revaluation Reserve of £3,789k (2024: £3,789k) and General Funds of £7,547k (2024: £6,795k).

Risk Management

The Trustee considers and assesses the major risks to which the Charity is exposed. This will include strategic, financial, operational and reputational risks. The Trustee implements policies and procedures in order to mitigate or minimise these risks and also monitors the effectiveness of its risk management processes.

The School has reported a surplus in its operating activities in both the current and prior year.

Financial Strategy

The Financial Strategy ensures the sustainability of the benefits provided by the School.

Approved by the Trustee on 16 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Rt Rev M Stock

Bishop of Leeds

Director

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Directors of the Trustee are responsible for preparing the Trustee's Report and the Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to Charities in England and Wales requires the Trustee to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the Charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources of the Charity for that period. In preparing these Financial Statements the Trustee is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the Financial Statements; and
- prepare the Financial Statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Trustee is responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable it to ensure that the Financial Statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, and applicable accounting regulations. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEE OF ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

Opinion

We have audited the Financial Statements of St John's Catholic School for the Deaf for the year ended 31 August 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, 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 Financial Reporting Standard 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 Charity's affairs as at 31 August 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

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 Charity 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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEE OF ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF (continued)

Conclusions relating to Going Concern

In auditing the Financial Statements, we have concluded that the Trustee's 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 Charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the Financial Statements are authorised for issue.

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

Other Information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the Financial Statements and our Auditor's Report thereon. The Trustee is responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the Financial Statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our Report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEE OF ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF (continued)

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Trustee's Annual Report is inconsistent in any material respect with the Financial Statements; or
- the Charity has not kept sufficient accounting records; or
- the Financial Statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustee

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustee's Responsibilities set out on page 18, the Trustee is 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 Trustee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of Financial Statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the Financial Statements, the Trustee is responsible for assessing the Charity'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 Trustee either intends to liquidate the Charity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

We have been appointed as auditors under the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under that Act.

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

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEE OF ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF (continued)

Auditor's responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements (continued)

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 specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud are detailed below.

Identifying and assessing risks related to irregularities:

We assessed the susceptibility of the Charity's Financial Statements to material misstatement and how fraud might occur, including through discussions with the Trustee, discussions within our audit team planning meeting, updating our record of internal controls and ensuring these controls operated as intended. We evaluated possible incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the Financial Statements. We identified laws and regulations that are of significance in the context of the charity by discussions with The Trustee and updating our understanding of the sector in which the Charity operates.

Laws and regulations of direct significance in the context of the Charity include the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, guidance issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales and guidance issued by the Department for Education.

Audit response to risks identified

We considered the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures on the related Financial Statement items including a review of financial statement disclosures. We reviewed the Charity's records of breaches of laws and regulations, minutes of meetings and correspondence with relevant authorities to identify potential material misstatements arising. We discussed the Charity's policies and procedures for compliance with laws and regulations with members of management responsible for compliance.

During the planning meeting with the audit team, the engagement partner drew attention to the key areas which might involve non-compliance with laws and regulations or fraud. We enquired of management whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations or knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud. We addressed the risk of fraud through management override of controls by testing the appropriateness of journal entries and identifying any significant transactions that were unusual or outside the normal course of business. We assessed whether judgements made in making accounting estimates gave rise to a possible indication of management bias. At the completion stage of the audit, the engagement partner's review included ensuring that the team had approached

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEE OF ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF (continued)

Audit response to risks identified (continued)

their work with appropriate professional scepticism and thus the capacity to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

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

Use of our Report

This report is made solely to the Charity's Trustee, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Trustee 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 Charity and the Trustee as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Saffery LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
10 Wellington Place
Leeds
LS1 4AP

18 December 2025

Saffery LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

		School		Investments		Charity
	Note	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total Funds £'000	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Total Funds £'000
Income and Endowments from:						
School Fees		3,164	-	3,164	-	3,164
Government Grants		744	238	982	-	982
Donations		-	4	4	-	4
Legacies		53	-	53	-	53
Trading Activities		17	-	17	-	17
Investment Income	2	-	9	9	167	176
Other Income		34	-	34	-	34
Total Operating Income		4,012	251	4,263	167	4,430
Expenditure on:						
Total Cost of Raising Funds	3	-	2	2	59	61
Charitable Expenditure	4	3,487	234	3,721	58	3,779
Total Operating Expenditure		3,487	236	3,723	117	3,840
Net Income		525	15	540	50	590
Transfer between Funds		6	(6)	-	-	-
Net Gains on Investment Assets		-	16	16	171	187
Net Movement in Funds	8	531	25	556	221	777
Reconciliation of Funds:						
Total Funds brought forward		1,643	481	2,124	8,941	11,065
Total Funds carried forward		2,174	506	2,680	9,162	11,842

All activities are from continuing operations.

The Notes from page 28 to 44 form part of these Financial Statements.

There were no recognised gains or losses for the year ended 31 August 2025 other than those included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Note	School		Investments Unrestricted Funds £'000	Charity Total Funds £'000
		Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000		
Income and Endowments from:					
School Fees		2,845	-	-	2,845
Government Grants		731	7	-	738
Donations		4	-	-	4
Legacies		10			10
Trading Activities		15	-	-	15
Investment Income	2	-	9	172	181
Other Income		59	-	-	59
Total Operating Income		3,664	16	172	3,852
Expenditure on:					
Total Cost of Raising Funds	3	-	2	79	81
Charitable Expenditure	4	3,327	33	58	3,418
Total Operating Expenditure		3,327	35	137	3,499
Net Income/(Expenditure)		337	(19)	35	353
Net Gains on Investment Assets		-	33	391	424
Net Movement in Funds	8	337	14	426	777
Reconciliation of Funds:					
Total Funds brought forward		1,306	467	8,515	10,288
Total Funds carried forward		1,643	481	8,941	11,065

All activities are from continuing operations.

The Notes from page 28 to 44 form part of these Financial Statements.

There were no recognised gains or losses for the year ended 31 August 2024 other than those included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

BALANCE SHEET

	Note	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets	9	1,458	1,124
Investment Properties	10	5,131	5,131
Investments	11	3,578	3,750
Total Fixed Assets		<u>10,167</u>	<u>10,005</u>
Current Assets			
Inventories		6	7
Debtors	12	120	49
Cash at Bank and in Hand		1,911	1,386
Total Current Assets		<u>2,037</u>	<u>1,442</u>
Current Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	(362)	(382)
Net Current Assets		<u>1,675</u>	<u>1,060</u>
Net Assets		<u>11,842</u>	<u>11,065</u>
The Funds of the Charity:			
Unrestricted Funds			
- Revaluation Reserve		3,789	3,789
- General Funds		7,547	6,795
- Total	16	11,336	10,584
Restricted Funds	16	506	481
Total Charity Funds		<u>11,842</u>	<u>11,065</u>

The Notes from page 28 to 44 form part of these Financial Statements.

These Financial Statements were approved and authorised by the Directors on
16 December 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

+ Marcus Stock

Rt Rev M Stock
Bishop of Leeds
Director

ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Net Movement in Funds	777	777
Adjusted for:		
Depreciation Charges	155	109
Net Gains on Investments	(187)	(424)
Investment Income	(176)	(181)
Decrease/(Increase) in Inventories	1	(3)
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors	(71)	66
Decrease in Creditors	(20)	(297)
Investment Expenditure	20	30
Net Cash provided by Operating Activities	499	77
Cash Flows from Investing Activities		
Bank Interest Received	3	3
Investment Properties Income	112	105
Payments to Acquire Tangible Fixed Assets	(489)	(441)
Proceeds from the Disposal of Fixed Asset Investments	600	-
Payments to Acquire Fixed Asset Investments	(200)	-
Net cash provided by/(used in) Investing Activities	26	(333)
Net Increase/(Decrease) Cash and Cash Equivalents	525	(256)
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the beginning of year	1,386	1,642
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the end of year	1,911	1,386

Analysis of Net Cash

	2025 £'000	Movement £'000	2024 £'000	Movement £'000	2023 £'000
Cash at Bank and in Hand	1,911	525	1,386	(256)	1,642

The Notes from page 28 to 44 form part of these Financial Statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Basis of Accounting

These Financial Statements are prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of certain fixed assets.

The Financial Statements are prepared in Sterling which is the functional currency of the entity. Monetary amounts in these Financial Statements are rounded to the nearest thousand pound (£'000). The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (UK GAAP). The Charity is a public benefit entity for the purposes of FRS 102.

The Financial Statements have been prepared to give a true and fair view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102) rather than Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (revised 2005) which has been withdrawn.

1.2 Going Concern

The Trustee has assessed whether the use of the going concern basis is appropriate and has considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the Charity to continue as a going concern. The Trustee has made this assessment for a period of at least twelve months from the date of approval of the Financial Statements.

In particular, the Trustee has considered the Charity's forecasts and projections (which adopt a prudent approach when assessing future pupil numbers).

After making enquiries, and taking into consideration the Charity's Cash at Bank and in Hand at 31 August 2025 of £1,911k (2024: £1,386k) and Investments that can be realised in the short term of £3,578k (2024: £3,750k) the Trustee has concluded that there is a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.2 Going Concern (continued)

The Charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its Financial Statements.

1.3 Income

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities on the basis of the amounts receivable for the year. Income from fees is included in the period that the service is provided.

Grants receivable, including capital grants, are included as income when receivable except when donors:

- specify that grants given to the Charity must be used in future accounting periods and the income is deferred until those periods; and
- impose conditions which have to be fulfilled before the Charity becomes entitled to use such income. Income is deferred and included in the Statement of Financial Activities when those conditions have been met.

Donations and Other Income are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on the basis of the amounts received in the year.

1.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is included in the Statement of Financial Activities on the basis of the amounts payable for goods and services provided in the year.

Charitable expenditure consists of all expenditure directly relating to the objectives of the Charity and comprise the running of the School and maintaining the portfolio of properties in the Investment Account.

The Charity does not incur direct costs in its voluntary fundraising activities.

Investment management fees and interest costs are included in the Cost of Raising Funds.

Liabilities are 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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.4 Expenditure (continued)

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure includes VAT where it cannot be fully recovered and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Governance costs are those incurred in connection with the audit of the Charity and its compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements including legal fees.

1.5 Commitments

Commitments that are made by the Trustee and the School Governors that are legally binding have been accrued. Those that are not legally binding have not been charged in the Financial Statements but have been disclosed in the Notes to the Financial Statements.

1.6 Grants Payable

Discretionary grants are paid from the Edward Witham Dawson Charity to individuals meeting the requirements of the linked Charity's Trust Deed. Grants are paid on an ad hoc basis and payment in one financial year does not imply continued support in future financial years. Liabilities relating to grants payable are recognised once the Charity is irrevocably committed to the provision of the grant.

1.7 Investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the Balance Sheet date using the closing quoted mid-market price. Realised and Unrealised Gains and Losses on Investments are reported in the Statement of Financial Activities. Investment income plus associated tax recoverable is credited to income on an accruals basis.

1.8 Investment Properties

Investment Property, which is property held to earn rentals and capital appreciation, is measured using the fair value model as at the balance sheet date. A formal valuation is undertaken every five years, the surplus or deficit on revaluation is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities. In the intervening years an annual assessment for impairment is carried out and the impairment is charged to the Statement of Financial Activities

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.9 Taxation

The Trustee considers that the Charity is exempt from taxation and therefore no provision is made for it.

1.10 Pension Schemes

The Charity makes defined contributions to a group personal pension scheme for certain employees. Contributions payable for the year are charged in the Statement of Financial Activities. Contributions are also paid, for eligible employees, to the Teachers' Pension Scheme (England and Wales), as disclosed in Note 6 to the Financial Statements. Contributions payable are charged as charitable expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.11 Tangible Assets

Freehold Buildings

A review of building valuations is carried out annually and, where required, an appropriate impairment charge is made in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Freehold Buildings are maintained to a high standard and depreciation is not provided for as, in the Trustee's opinion, the residual value is equal to the carrying value in the Financial Statements.

Freehold Building Improvements

Improvements to freehold properties are capitalised at cost and depreciated on a straight line basis between two per cent and ten per cent per annum.

Fixtures, Fittings and Equipment

Fixtures, fittings and equipment are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is calculated by the straight line method to write off the cost or value, less anticipated residual value, over the expected useful lives of the assets as follows:

Motor Vehicles	20 percent per annum
Fixtures, Fittings and Equipment	10 to 20 percent per annum

Impairment reviews are undertaken on an annual basis.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.12 Fund Accounting

General Funds are Unrestricted Funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustee and School Governors in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted Funds are funds that are used in accordance with specific instructions made by donors or that have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. Restricted Funds are set out in Note 16(b) to the Financial Statements.

1.13 Financial Instruments

Basic financial instruments are measured at amortised cost. The Charity has no other financial instruments or basic financial instruments measured at fair value.

1.14 Critical Accounting Estimates

In preparing financial statements it is necessary to make certain judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts recognised in those financial statements. The following judgement and estimate is considered by the Trustee to have the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the Financial Statements.

Useful Economic Life: The annual depreciation charge for building improvements, fixtures, fittings and equipment and motor vehicles is sensitive to change in the estimated useful economic lives and residual value of assets. These are re-assessed annually and amended where necessary to reflect current circumstances.

Investment Properties are valued on the basis of market value every five years. In the intervening years a review of Investment Properties' fair value is carried out annually and an appropriate revaluation credit or impairment charge is made in the Statement of Financial Activities.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

2. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2025		
	Restricted Fund £'000	Unrestricted Fund £'000	Total Funds £'000
Income arising from:			
Rental Income	-	112	112
Listed Investments	6	55	61
Interest Received	3	-	3
Total	9	167	176

	2024		
	Restricted Fund £'000	Unrestricted Fund £'000	Total Funds £'000
Income arising from:			
Rental Income	-	105	105
Listed Investments	6	67	73
Interest Received	3	-	3
Total	9	172	181

3. TOTAL COST OF RAISING FUNDS

The total cost of raising funds consists of:

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Investment Property Expenditure	41	51
Investment Management Fees	20	30
Total	61	81

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

4. CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE

Charitable Expenditure relates to School running costs and is analysed below.

	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
Teachers' Salaries	1,264	1,164
Support Staff Salaries	1,478	1,385
Professional Fees	48	57
Education Supplies	252	227
Premises Costs	475	385
Establishment Expenses	88	77
Depreciation	155	109
Support Costs	19	14
Total	3,779	3,418

5. EMPLOYMENT COSTS AND NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

Staff costs comprise the following:

	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
Salaries and Wages	2,113	1,921
Employers' National Insurance	228	180
Pension Costs	276	231
Agency Staff	125	217
Total	2,742	2,549

During the year, payments of £6k (2024: £Nil) were paid to two employees (2024: no employees) in relation to redundancy payments.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

5. EMPLOYMENT COSTS AND NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES (continued)

The number of employees who received a salary in excess of £60,000 per annum was as follows:

	2025	2024
	No.	No.
£60,001 to £70,000	-	1
£70,001 to £80,000	1	1
£80,001 to £90,000	-	-
£90,001 to £100,000	1	-
£100,001 to £110,000	-	1
	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>

The average number of employees and full-time equivalents was as follows:

	2025	2024
	No.	No.
Average Number of Employees	78	73
Full Time Equivalent	<u>63</u>	<u>55</u>

6. PENSION COSTS

The School participates in the Teachers' Pension Scheme ("the TPS") for its teaching staff. The pension charge for the year includes contributions payable to the TPS of £233k (2024: £194k) and at 31 August 2025 £Nil (2024: £Nil) was accrued in respect of contributions to this Scheme.

The TPS is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. Membership is automatic for teachers, and 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.

The latest TPS actuarial valuation was carried out at 1 April 2024 and the next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2027. For the year ended 31 August 2025 the employer contribution rate for the TPS was 28.68% (2024: 28.68%) which includes an administration levy of 0.08%.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

6. PENSION COSTS (continued)

The Charity also contributes to a personal defined contribution pension scheme for non-teaching staff. For the year ended 31 August 2025, £43k (2024: £38k) was charged to the Statement of Financial Activities. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity in independently administered funds.

7. DIRECTORS, GOVERNORS AND KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

The Charity considers that its key management personnel comprise the Directors of the Trustee Company, the Board of School Governors and the Senior Leadership Team.

Neither Directors nor School Governors received any remuneration in respect of their Office in either the current year or the prior year. Neither Directors nor Governors received expenses incurred in their Office in either the current year or the prior year.

The total employment benefits of the Senior Leadership Team in the year was £413k (2024: £449k) including Employers' National Insurance Contributions of £39k (2024: £41k) and £67k (2024: £66k) of pension contributions.

8. NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS IN THE YEAR

Net Movement Funds in the year is stated after charging:

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Auditor's Remuneration		
- audit services	13	13
- other services	1	1
Depreciation of Owned Assets	155	109
Operating Lease Rentals	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

9. TANGIBLE ASSETS

	Motor Vehicles £'000	Fixtures, Fittings and Equipment £'000	Freehold Building Improvements £'000	Total £'000
Cost or Valuation				
At 1 September 2024	83	1,138	1,490	2,711
Additions	-	24	465	489
At 31 August 2025	83	1,162	1,955	3,200
Depreciation and Impairments				
At 1 September 2024	71	1,061	455	1,587
Charge for the year	11	42	102	155
At 31 August 2025	82	1,103	557	1,742
Net Book Value at 31 August 2025	1	59	1,398	1,458
Net Book Value at 31 August 2024	12	77	1,035	1,124

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

10. INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

	Investment Properties £'000
Cost or valuation	
At 31 August 2025 and 31 August 2024	<u>5,131</u>
Depreciation and Impairments	
At 31 August 2025 and 31 August 2024	<u>-</u>
Fair Value	
At 31 August 2025 and 31 August 2024	<u>5,131</u>
Historic Cost	
At 31 August 2025 and 31 August 2024	<u>1,448</u>

Investment Properties are valued on the basis of market value as defined in the RICS Valuation and Appraisal Manual (7th Edition) every five years. The last valuations were carried out on 31 August 2022 by Charters-Reid Chartered Surveyors and Savills Chartered Surveyors. In the intervening years, a review of Investment Properties is carried out annually and, where required, an appropriate impairment charge is made in the Statement of Financial Activities.

In the Trustee's opinion, the value disclosed in the Balance Sheet reflects its best estimate of the Fair Value of Investment Properties at 31 August 2025.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

11. INVESTMENTS

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Market Value at 1 September	3,750	3,283
Investment Income	61	73
Net Realised Gains in the Year	71	46
Net Unrealised Gains on Revaluation	116	378
Investment Managers Costs Deducted from Investments	(20)	(30)
Addition to Investments	200	-
Withdrawn from Investments	(600)	-
Market Value at 31 August	3,578	3,750

Analysis of Market Value of Investment by Type:

Equities	2,742	2,674
Bonds	337	277
Alternative Investments	279	233
Cash	220	566
Market Value at 31 August	3,578	3,750

Analysis of Market Value of Investments between those held within and outside the United Kingdom:

Within the United Kingdom	2,244	2,718
Outside the United Kingdom	1,334	1,032
Market Value at 31 August	3,578	3,750

Analysis of Market Value by Fund:

Unrestricted	3,218	3,409
Restricted	360	341
Market Value at 31 August	3,578	3,750
Historic Cost of Investments at 31 August	2,744	3,029

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

12. DEBTORS

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
VAT Receivable	25	-
Other Debtors and Prepayments	95	49
	<u>120</u>	<u>49</u>

13. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Trade Creditors	45	246
Accruals and Deferred Income	317	134
Other Creditors	-	2
	<u>362</u>	<u>382</u>

14. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

The Charity had capital commitments at 31 August 2025 of £36k (2024: £349k).

15. OPERATING LEASES

At 31 August 2025 the Charity had the following future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases which fall due as follows:

	School Office Equipment	
	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Expiry date:		
Within one year	3	3
Between two and five years	6	6
	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

16. ANALYSIS OF CHARITABLE FUNDS

a) Analysis of Unrestricted Fund Movements

	For the year ended 31 August 2025					At 31 August 2025 £'000
	At 1 September 2024 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Transfers £'000	Investments Gains £'000	
School	1,643	4,012	(3,487)	6	-	2,174
Investments	8,941	167	(117)	-	171	9,162
Total Charity	10,584	4,179	(3,604)	6	171	11,336

	For the year ended 31 August 2024					At 31 August 2024 £'000
	At 1 September 2023 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Transfers £'000	Investments Gains £'000	
School	1,306	3,664	(3,327)	-	-	1,643
Investments	8,515	172	(137)	-	391	8,941
Total Charity	9,821	3,836	(3,464)	-	391	10,584

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

16. ANALYSIS OF CHARITABLE FUNDS (continued)

b) Analysis of Restricted Fund Movements

	For the year ended 31 August 2025					At 31 August 2025 £'000
	At 1 September 2024 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Transfers £'000	Investments Gains £'000	
Edward Witham Dawson Charity	441	9	(2)	-	16	464
Teachers' Pay Grant	-	108	(108)	-	-	-
Government Grants	31	130	(122)	(6)	-	33
Other Funds	9	4	(4)	-	-	9
Total Charity	481	251	(236)	(6)	16	506

	For the year ended 31 August 2024					At 31 August 2024 £'000
	At 1 September 2023 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Transfers £'000	Investments Gains £'000	
Edward Witham Dawson Charity	401	9	(2)	-	33	441
Government Grants	57	7	(33)	-	-	31
Other Funds	8	1	-	-	-	9
Total Charity	466	17	(35)	-	33	481

The Edward Witham Dawson Charity is a Linked Charity established by a Trust Deed dated 31 January 1925, amended by a Scheme dated the 10 April 2022. The Charity's principal objectives are to support the work of the School, to provide and facilitate educational facilities and opportunities for people with physical or mental disabilities and to provide grants for the benefit of people with physical or mental disabilities.

Government Grants in the year include £50k NMSS (non-maintained special schools), £24k Pupil Premium Grant and £8k DFC (devolved formula capital funding).

Other Funds include donations from parents for School and Pupil equipment.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

17. NET ASSETS

	Total Charity			
	2025		2024	
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Tangible Fixed Assets	1,458	-	1,458	1,124
Investment Properties	5,131	-	5,131	5,131
Fixed Asset Investments	3,218	360	3,578	3,750
Bank Balances	1,808	103	1,911	1,386
Other Net Current (Liabilities)/Assets	(279)	43	(236)	(326)
TOTAL NET ASSETS	11,336	506	11,842	11,065

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

18. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Diocese of Leeds Trustee is also the Trustee of one other registered charity, the Leeds Diocesan Trust.

Directors of the Trustee who are members of the Clergy receive allowances and expenses for their work in active ministry from the Leeds Diocesan Trust. No payments were made to Lay Directors in either the current year or the prior year by the Leeds Diocesan Trust. No reimbursement of expenses was paid to the Directors of the Trustee by the Leeds Diocesan Trust in either the current year or prior year.

There is a tenancy agreement on an Investment Property with the Leeds Diocesan Trust, which terminated in March 2025. The Charity received a rental income of £5k (2024: £7k) in the year. This is considered to be an arm's length transaction on a commercial basis.