

Newman Catholic Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year ended 31 August 2025

Company Registration Number:
07714121 (England and Wales)

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

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Newman Catholic Academy Trust

Reference and Administrative Details

Members

M Breen

Rt Rev P Egan

H Hauschild

Rev P Smith

Rev James McAuley

Trustees

G Joslin

N Le Prevost

R Magee

A Rouse

The following Governors served during the year but are not Trustees of the Academy Trust:

R Ashworth

C Ikejiuba

Fr T Kleinschmidt

K Clement

E Crighton-Lee

A Tillyer

T Airiemiokhale

P Ho

I Ezika

A Moon

Senior Management Team

R Ashworth

J Hall

H Lacey

S Keogh- Foy

V Inch

Headteacher and Accounting Officer

Deputy Headteacher

Assistant Headteacher

Assistant Headteacher

School Business Manager

Company Name

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

Principal and Registered Office

Springhill Catholic Primary School

Milton Road

Southampton

Hampshire

SO15 2HW

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

Reference and Administrative Details

Company Registration Number
07714121 (England and Wales)

Independent Auditor
Hopper Williams & Bell Limited
Statutory Auditor
Highland House
Mayflower Close
Chandlers Ford
Eastleigh
Hampshire
SO53 4AR

Bankers
Lloyds Bank Plc
63 London Road
Southampton
Hampshire
SO15 2US

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

Trustees' Report

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's 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 primary school in Southampton to provide education for pupils of different abilities, who are mainly drawn from the three Catholic parishes in which the school is situated. It has a published admission number (PAN) of 630 and at the Autumn 2025 census had 654 pupils on roll.

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

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

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

Members' Liability

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

Trustees' Indemnities

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

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

In accordance with the arrangements set out in the Trust's Articles and funding agreement, the Members of the Trust company shall be appointed by the Diocesan Bishop.

The number of Trustees shall not be less than three but (unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution) shall not be subject to any maximum. All Trustees shall upon their appointment or election give a written undertaking to the Diocesan Bishop to uphold the Objects of the Company.

The Diocesan Bishop shall appoint such number of Foundation Trustees to ensure that at all times the number of Foundation Trustees exceeds the number of other Directors (including any co-opted Directors) by at least two.

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

Trustees' Report

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

In circumstances where the Trustees have not appointed local governing bodies, or there are no plans to include at least two local Parent Governors on each local governing body, there shall be a minimum of two Parent Trustees, elected by the Parents.

Co-opted Trustees may be appointed by being co-opted by Trustees who have not been so appointed themselves.

The term of office for any Trustee shall be four years or a shorter period if specified at the time of appointment by the person or body appointing, save that this time limit shall not apply to Co-opted Trustees or to any post that is held ex-officio. Co-opted Trustees shall be appointed for a period of one year.

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees

A meeting is held with the Chair of Trustees, the new Trustee is given a mentor to contact and they are provided with all policies & documentation including a 'Trustees' guide to the law', encouraged to attend Diocesan training and a local Trustee training provider induction course.

Organisational Structure

The Board of Governors operates as a flat structure meeting once a month. This enables the Board to be more efficient and faster at attending to the school's needs. The annual cycle of work outlines the focus for each month to ensure that all relevant areas are covered over the year. Individual Governors are assigned particular areas of specialism based on their skills in order that they can perform more detailed reviews of specialist matters and feed their summary of findings into the Board meetings.

The day to day running of the school is delegated to the Headteacher.

Further information is available in the scheme of delegation.

The Headteacher acts as the Accounting Officer.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The pay range for the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and Assistant Headteachers are determined in accordance with the criteria set out in the School Teachers Pay and Conditions Document. Pay scales for support staff follow the recommendations of the National Joint Council (NJC). All pay awards are approved the pay review committee. The pay committee consult with an external advisor as part of the appraisal and pay review process for the Headteacher.

Appraisal objectives will be appropriate to the scale point the member of staff is on and in line with their level of experience.

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

Trustees' Report

Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	Full-time equivalent employee number
1	0.8

Percentage of time spent on facility time

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

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Total cost of facility time	£nil
Total pay bill	£3,418,460
Percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time	0%

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	0%
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Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

There have been no transactions with related parties or other connected charities/organisations.

Objectives and Activities

Objects and Aims

To provide education for pupils of different abilities who are mainly drawn from the three Catholic parishes in which the school is situated.

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

The Company's object ("the Object") is specifically restricted to the following: to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing Catholic schools designated as such ("the Academies") which shall offer offering a broad and balanced curriculum and shall be conducted in accordance with the principles, practices and tenets of the Catholic Church and all Catholic Canon Law applying thereto, including the charitable purposes of the Trustees and any trust deed governing the use of any land used by an Academy both generally and having regard to any advice and following directives issued by the Diocesan Bishop.

Public Benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities the Trustees have carefully considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

Trustees' Report

Strategic Report

Achievements and Performance

The school is held in high regard by the local community achieving SATs results at the end of Primary education which show excellent progress from below average starting points. Below are the end of Key Stage results for the school for 2025 which show the school is performing strongly against national averages in all subjects.

Year R

71% GLD (National 2024: 67%)

Y1 Phonics: 32 out of 40 was considered a pass

School 2025	National 2025
97% pass	81%

Y4 Multiplication: As a school, we set 20 as the pass mark out of 25

School 2025	National Data 2025
98% gained 20 and above	65% gained 20 and above
65% gained full marks	31% gained full marks

Y6 Data:

	2025 ARE %	National 2025	2025 GDS %	National 2025	2025 Av scaled score	National 2025
Writing	94%	72%	29%	13%	N/A	N/A
Reading	97%	75%	65%	33%	111	106
SPAG	97%	73%	84%	36%	114	105
Maths	97%	74%	52%	26%	110	105
Science	95%	82%	N/A	N/A	/	/
Combined	94%	62%	20%	8%	/	/

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

Trustees' Report

Key Performance Indicators

Number on roll: the Academy continues to be oversubscribed and has waiting lists for all year groups.

Performance: Continue to monitor and maintain the high standards of achievement obtained in the assessments at the end of year 1, year 4 and year 6.

English Hub: Continue to deliver excellent early language and phonics teaching in reception and Key Stage 1 and maintain appointment as English Hub School.

Attendance: Maintain good attendance levels across the school through monitoring, early identification of attendance issues and working with families.

Behaviour: Set high standards for behaviour and continue to monitor and address behaviour issues.

Going Concern

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

Financial Review

The Trust's main source of income is from the Education and Skills Funding Agency, the use of which is restricted to the purposes of Education. Expenditure is linked to the school improvement plan to enable the school to continue to achieve above the National average SATs results at the end of primary education.

Springhill Catholic Primary School continues to operate as an English Hub, selected on the basis of their expertise in teaching reading and support schools in their surrounding areas. English Hub grant funding of £634,997 (2024: £589,147) was used to support schools in the surrounding areas as outlined in the grant offer letter. Unspent funding is included as a liability on the balance sheet.

For the year ended 31 August 2025 the Trust accounts show an in-year deficit of £80,503 (2024: £29,731 deficit) as a result of investment in capital improvements at the school. If movements on the restricted pension and restricted fixed asset fund are excluded the Trust generated a surplus of £21,097 (2024: £94,084 deficit) in relation to its educational activities and its restricted and unrestricted reserves (excluding restricted pension liability and restricted fixed asset fund) increased from £714,767 to £735,864.

In addition to grant funding, the school generates other income through parental donations, bank interest, the running of breakfast and after school clubs and through letting of the schools' facilities.

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

Trustees' Report

Reserves Policy

The Finance & Building committee have agreed that a minimum of 5% of the General Annual Grant should be held in reserve for emergency repairs that are not covered by the school's intensive insurance policies and uncertainties regarding future funding formula and increasing employment costs.

Any surplus or deficit arising from accounting for the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) is included within restricted funds. Where the inclusion of this in restricted fund results in an overall deficit, this does not mean that an immediate liability crystallises. Equally, should this create an overall surplus in restricted funds this does not create an immediately realisable asset.

The reserves as at 31 August 2025 were as follows:

- Unrestricted (free) reserves of £188,659 (2024: £161,705)
- A restricted fixed asset fund of £3,686,220 (2024: £3,787,820), which can only be realised through disposal of tangible fixed assets
- Other restricted funds of £547,205 (2024: £553,062)
- Total funds of £4,422,084 (2024: £4,502,587)

Total reserves available to the Academy (i.e. restricted reserves excluding restricted fixed asset funds and pension reserves, plus unrestricted reserves) totalled £735,864, which exceeded the minimum 5% required by the reserves policy.

Investment Policy

The School aims to manage its cash balances to provide for the day to day working capital requirements of its operations, whilst protecting the real long-term value of any surplus cash balances against inflation. In addition, the School aims to invest surplus cash funds to optimise returns, but ensuring the investment instruments are such that there is no tangible risk to the loss of these cash funds.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

Financial risk control is reviewed by Governors with allocated responsibility for finance who then report to the Board of Trustees.

Pupil numbers on roll directly influence the budget share received from the DfE. Any decrease in numbers would result in a decrease in funding for the following Academic year. The risk relating to this uncertainty has been assessed and is considered to be low due to the fact that we are currently oversubscribed and maintaining a waiting list however this is regularly reviewed.

Uncertainty exists regarding increasing staffing costs.

Prudent three-year forecasts are prepared taking the above into consideration and reserve levels monitored.

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

Trustees' Report

Principal Risks and Uncertainties (continued)

The Trustees have appointed a health and safety committee consisting of the school's Health and Safety lead, SLT and a governor with specific responsibility for health and safety. The committee feed back to the FGB at full board meetings via the governor with delegated responsibility and the Headteacher. The committee are supported by an SLA with an external health and safety specialist and regular audits are carried out to ensure the estate is safe and compliant. Any potential risks that are identified are recorded, addressed proactively and reported back on.

The Trust's risk register has a specific section for risks relating to the premises and estate.

Fundraising

The Springhill Parents' Association raises funds in order to support the school's operations. Fundraising activities undertaken by the parents' association include cake sales, an annual school fete, second hand uniform sales and more.

In addition, collections are held for other local and national charities that the school community may contribute to. Any amounts collected are forwarded in full to the relevant charity. We confirm that when fundraising:

- No unsolicited approaches are made to members of the public.
- No commercial participators are used.
- No regularity schemes or standards are applicable.
- No complaints were made to the Academy Trust during the year.
- The Academy Trust did not utilise the services of any external fundraisers.

Plans for Future Periods

Over the next 12 months we plan to:

- Continue to focus on following the school improvement plan to maintain our Outstanding Ofsted rating which will now be classed as Strong or Exceptional under the new Framework.
- Maintain English Hub status;
- Focus on addressing any points raised by the internal scrutineer;
- Further improve the outdoor and indoor space;
- Apply for further CIF bids to improve the condition of the school building;
- Continue to maintain high KS2 results;
- Grow the cultural capital offer for pupils.

Funds Held as Custodian Trustee on Behalf of Others

The Trust holds no funds as Custodian Trustee on behalf of others.

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

Trustees' Report

Auditor

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

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

The Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 3 November 2025 and signed on the Board's behalf by:

Graham Joslin

G Joslin
Chair of Trustees

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

Governance Statement

Scope of Responsibility

As Trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Newman Catholic 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 Headteacher, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Newman Catholic Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

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

<u>Trustee</u>	<u>Meetings attended</u>	<u>Out of a possible</u>
G Joslin	9	9
R Ashworth	9	9
B Magee	8	9
Fr T Kleinschmidt	7	9
C Ikejiuba	5	9
A Rouse	8	9
N Le Prevost	8	9
K Clement	7	9
E Crighton-Lee	9	9
A Tillyer	9	9
T Airiemiokhale	9	9
P Ho	8	9
I Ezika	8	9
A Moon	9	9

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

Governance Statement

Governance (continued)

Composition of the Governing Body

The Governing Body is made up of Foundation Governors, Staff Governors (including the Headteacher), Parent Governors and Co-opted Governors.

The term Foundation Governor is used in this document to describe those appointed to the Board by the Bishop of the Diocese in which the Academy is situated. Elsewhere, these individuals may be referred to as Foundation Directors. The Bishop not only appoints his Foundation Governors because of their particular skills, but, more importantly, for the strict purpose of ensuring, on his behalf, the Catholic character of the Academy. Foundation Governors are also under important legal duties to preserve and develop the Academy's Catholic character. In order to ensure that the Academy's Catholic character is protected and that it is being conducted in accordance with the tenets of its Catholic designation, Governing Bodies of Catholic schools and academies must always have a majority of Foundation Governors.

The Diocesan Bishop is canonically responsible for his schools and academies. He ensures that the Catholic ethos of the school/academy is maintained, particularly through the appointment of Foundation Governors, but also through overseeing the appointment of members of staff and through Diocesan inspection, in order to ensure that the school/academy is fulfilling the objects cited in its Instrument of Government/Articles of Association and the trust deed under which the school/academy was established.

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities.

Governing Body's work this year

Achievements over the past year include:

- Ensuring funding was available for the new MUGA;
- Attending 'Governor in School' mornings so they can see the school in action;
- Supporting the school to achieve outstanding in the RE inspection.

Conflicts of interest:

All new Governors, Trustees and Members are required to complete and submit details of any pecuniary interests. These are recorded in the Register of Interests and are re-completed at least annually. An agenda point regarding declaration of new pecuniary interests is included at each meeting and at any meeting attendees are asked to declare any interest in matters being discussed. Where there is a potential conflict of interest, they should declare it and may be required to withdraw from the meeting.

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

Governance Statement

Governance (continued)

Governance reviews:

During the year 2024-25, the Board's performance has been good, as shown in the annual report. The Board has now completed its first full annual cycle under its new structure and the monthly meetings have been shown to be beneficial in allowing the Board to meet the needs of the school without undue delay. The Full Governing Body has met ten times during the year and we have not cancelled a Full Governing Body meeting because it was not "quorate" (the number of Governors needed to ensure that legal decisions can be made). Overall, Governors have excellent attendance at Governing Body meetings.

The finance committee (incorporating audit and risk) was created as a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees during the year ended 31 Aug 2025. Its purpose is to assist the decision making of the Board of Governors, by enabling more detailed consideration to be given to the best means of fulfilling the Governors responsibility to ensure sound management of the academy's finances and resources, including proper planning, monitoring, probity and management of risk in line with the Academy Trust Handbook. Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

<u>Trustee</u>	<u>Meetings attended</u>	<u>Out of a possible</u>
A Tillyer	1	1
A Rouse	1	1

Prior to the creation of the finance committee the function of this committee was undertaken as part of the FGB meetings.

Review of Value for Money

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

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

- Monitoring expenditure on education resources on a central basis as part of weekly meetings with the Senior Leadership Team;
- Review of all contracts renewing;
- Continued expansion of after school clubs to maximise these revenue streams and ensure a more rounded extra-curricular provision;
- Continued rolling programme to replace traditional lighting with more energy-efficient LED alternatives;
- Applied for CIF bids; and
- Ensuring all spending is linked to the School Improvement Plan.

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

Governance Statement

The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Academy Trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Newman Catholic Academy Trust for the period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to Handle Risk

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

The Risk and Control Framework

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Board of Trustees
- regular reviews by the 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
- identification and management of risks

The Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided to buy-in an internal audit service from SLL Accounting.

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

- Follow up on external and internal audit points from prior year
- Risk register and management process
- Payroll testing
- Opening balances
- Long term financial forecasting and KPI reporting
- Contracts register
- Related party transactions

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

Governance Statement

The Risk and Control Framework (continued)

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

The internal scrutineer has delivered their schedule of work as planned and no material control issues have been identified.

Review of Effectiveness

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

- the work of the internal scrutineer
- the work of the external auditor
- the school resource management self-assessment tool
- the work of the executive managers within the Academy Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework

The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the finance committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Conclusion

Based on the advice of the 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 control.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 3 November 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Graham Joslin

G Joslin
Chair of Trustees

R Ashworth

R Ashworth
Accounting Officer

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance

As Accounting Officer of Newman Catholic Academy Trust I confirm that I have had due regard to the framework of authorities governing regularity, propriety and compliance, including the Academy Trust's funding agreement with DfE, and the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook, including responsibilities for estates safety and management. I have also considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Trust Board of Trustees and DfE of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management.

I confirm that I, and the Board of Trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the Academy Trust, or material non-compliance with the framework of authorities.

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

R Ashworth

R Ashworth
Accounting Officer
3 November 2025

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

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

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

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

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 3 November 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Graham Joslin

G Joslin
Chair of Trustees

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

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

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Newman Catholic Academy Trust ('the charitable company') for the year ended 31 August 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities (including the Income and Expenditure Account), the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2019, and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by the Department for Education.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- have been 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 charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

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

Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. It includes the Reference and Administrative Details, the Trustees' Report (including the 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 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.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of 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;
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns;
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of our audit.

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

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

Responsibilities of the 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 the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the 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.

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 is detailed below:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Academy Trust, and the sector in which it operates. These include but are not limited to compliance with the Companies Act 2006, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2019, the Academy Trust Handbook 2024, and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025.
- We obtained an understanding of how the Academy Trust is complying with these frameworks through discussions with management.

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

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

- We enquired with management whether there were any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations or whether they had knowledge of actual or suspected fraud. These enquiries are corroborated through follow-up audit procedures including but not limited to a review of legal and professional costs, correspondence and a review of board minutes.
- We assessed the susceptibility of the Academy Trust's financial statements to material misstatement, including the risk of fraud and management override of controls. We designed our audit procedures to respond to this assessment, including the identification and testing of any related party transactions and the testing of journal transactions that arise from management estimates, that are determined to be of significant value or unusual in their nature.
- We assessed the appropriateness of the collective competence and capabilities of the engagement team, including consideration of the engagement team's knowledge and understanding of the sector in which the Academy Trust operates in, and their practical experience through training and participation with audit engagements of a similar nature.

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. This description forms part of our Independent Auditor's Report.

Use of our report

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

James Flood

J Flood FCA (Senior statutory auditor)
For and on behalf of Hopper Williams & Bell Limited
Statutory Auditor
Highland House, Mayflower Close, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh SO53 4AR

04 Dec 2025
Date

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Newman Catholic Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education

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

This report is made solely to Newman Catholic 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 Newman Catholic 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 Newman Catholic Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the Accounting Officer of Newman Catholic Academy Trust and the reporting accountant

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

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

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Newman Catholic Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education

Approach

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- Consideration as to whether prior approval was sought from the Secretary of State where it is required by the Academy Trust Handbook (effective from 1 September 2024) (ATH).
- Review of any special payments to staff, including compromise agreements, to consider whether prior approval was sought where required by the ATH and that any payments are in line with the severance guidance published by DfE.
- Consideration as to whether any borrowings have been made in accordance with the ATH.
- Review of any 'minded to' letters or Notices to Improve which have been issued to the Academy Trust.
- Review of any transactions with related parties to ensure that they have been carried out in accordance with the ATH.
- Review of governance arrangements to determine whether the requirements of the ATH have been met.
- Review of the Academy Trust's internal controls, including whether the general control environment has regard to the regularity of underlying transactions, including fraud management.
- Review of the Academy Trust's procurement policies to determine effectiveness and testing a sample of purchases to confirm that the policies have been correctly implemented.
- Identifying any conditions associated with specialist grant income and determining whether it has been spent as the purposes intended.

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Newman Catholic Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education

Conclusion

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

James Flood

J Flood FCA
Reporting Accountant
Hopper Williams & Bell Limited
Chartered Accountants
Highland House, Mayflower Close, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh SO53 4AR

04 Dec 2025
Date

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

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

	Note	Un- restricted funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Pension Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2024/25 Total £	2023/24 Total £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and capital grants	3	-	-	-	11,335	11,335	20,480
Other trading activities	5	14,080	-	-	-	14,080	7,685
Investments	6	12,874	-	-	-	12,874	10,931
Charitable activities:							
Funding for the academy trust's educational operations	4	-	3,977,668	-	-	3,977,668	3,759,422
Teaching school hub income	4	-	632,831	-	-	632,831	718,467
Total		26,954	4,610,499	-	11,335	4,648,788	4,516,985
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities:							
Academy trust educational operations	8	-	4,567,549	27,000	161,742	4,756,291	4,678,716
Net income / (expenditure)		26,954	42,950	(27,000)	(150,407)	(107,503)	(161,731)
Transfers between funds	16	-	(48,807)	-	48,807	-	-
Other recognised gains / (losses):							
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	24	-	-	27,000	-	27,000	132,000
Net movement in funds		26,954	(5,857)	-	(101,600)	(80,503)	(29,731)
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		161,705	553,062	-	3,787,820	4,502,587	4,532,318
Total funds carried forward		188,659	547,205	-	3,686,220	4,422,084	4,502,587

The notes on pages 28 to 49 form part of these financial statements.

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2025

Company Number 07714121

	Note	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		3,645,004		3,787,820
Current assets					
Debtors	13	103,319		99,376	
Investments	14	211,130		206,182	
Cash at bank and in hand		889,371		828,838	
		<u>1,203,820</u>		<u>1,134,396</u>	
Liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>(426,740)</u>		<u>(419,629)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>777,080</u>		<u>714,767</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			4,422,084		4,502,587
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	24		-		-
Total net assets			<u>4,422,084</u>		<u>4,502,587</u>
Funds of the academy trust:					
Restricted funds					
Fixed asset fund	16	3,686,220		3,787,820	
Restricted income fund	16	<u>547,205</u>		<u>553,062</u>	
Total restricted funds			4,233,425		4,340,882
Unrestricted income funds	16		188,659		161,705
Total funds			<u>4,422,084</u>		<u>4,502,587</u>

The financial statements on pages 25 to 49 were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 3 November 2025 and are signed on their behalf by:

Graham Joslin

G Joslin
Chair of Trustees

The notes on pages 28 to 49 form part of these financial statements.

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	19	60,198	19,354
Cash flows from investing activities	20	335	(60,054)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		<u>60,533</u>	<u>(40,700)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2024		828,838	869,538
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2025	21	<u>889,371</u>	<u>828,838</u>

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

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

1 Accounting policies

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

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements of the Academy Trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by DfE, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the Academy Trust and are rounded to the nearest £1.

Going Concern

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

Income

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

- 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.

- Grants

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

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

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

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

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

Income (continued)

- Other Income

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

- Donated goods, facilities and services

Goods donated for resale are included at fair value, being the expected proceeds from sale less the expected costs of sale. If it is practical to assess the fair value at receipt, it is recognised in stock and 'Income from other trading activities'. Upon sale, the value of 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'.

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.

- Charitable Activities

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

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

Tangible Fixed Assets

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

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

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

Leasehold Land and Buildings	2% straight line on buildings; not provided on land
Leasehold Improvements	10% straight line
Furniture and Equipment	25% straight line
Computer Equipment	33% straight line
Motor Vehicles	20% straight line

No depreciation has been provided on long leasehold land as it is similar to freehold land, which does not require depreciation.

Where the Academy Trust can identify the value of major components of freehold or leasehold buildings based upon additions following conversion to academy status, the Academy Trust reviews whether one or more such components have significantly different patterns of consumption of economic benefits. In such cases, the Academy Trust allocates the cost of the asset to its major components and depreciates each component separately over its useful life.

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

Liabilities

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

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

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

Provisions

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

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

Leased Assets

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

Current asset investments

Current asset investments comprise fixed term bank deposits. These investments are classified as a basic financial instrument and are measured at amortised cost.

Financial Instruments

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

Financial assets

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

Cash at bank

Cash at bank is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value. An investment is treated as a cash equivalent when it has a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

Financial liabilities

Trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

Taxation

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

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

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

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

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.

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.

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.

A defined benefit plan asset is recognised only to the extent that the Academy Trust expects to be able to recover the surplus either through reduced contributions in the future or through refunds from the plan.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted income funds represent those resources which may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objects of the Academy Trust at the discretion of the Trustees.

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

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

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

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

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

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 will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2025. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

The assumptions used are disclosed in note 24.

Critical areas of judgement

A defined benefit plan asset of £724,000 (2024: £15,000) has not been recognised as the Academy Trust does not expect to be able to recover the surplus either through reduced contributions in the future or through refunds from the plan. There are no other critical areas of judgement.

2 General Annual Grant (GAG)

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Academy Trust was subject to limits at 31 August 2025 on the amount of GAG that could be carried forward from one year to the next. An amount equal to 12% of GAG could be carried forward, of which up to 2% could be used for general recurrent purposes, with any balance being available for premises/capital purposes.

The Academy Trust has not exceeded these limits during the year ended 31 August 2025.

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2024/25 Total	2023/24 Total
	£	£	£	£
Capital grants	-	11,335	11,335	12,642
Other donations	-	-	-	7,838
	-	11,335	11,335	20,480
Total 2024	-	20,480	20,480	

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

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

4 Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024/25 Total £	2023/24 Total £
DfE grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	3,005,720	3,005,720	2,879,074
Pupil Premium	-	143,795	143,795	168,673
UFSM	-	115,933	115,933	115,368
Rates reclaim	-	13,209	13,209	12,523
PE and sports grant	-	21,630	21,630	21,640
Mainstream schools additional grant	-	-	-	91,823
Teachers' pay grant	-	47,552	47,552	47,533
Teachers' pension grant	-	57,603	57,603	24,001
Core schools budget grant	-	99,664	99,664	-
National insurance contributions grant	-	25,534	25,534	-
Other DfE grants	-	-	-	17,953
	-	3,530,640	3,530,640	3,378,588
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	142,628	142,628	100,307
Other income from the Academy Trust's educational operations				
Trip income	-	67,527	67,527	65,081
Tuition fee income	-	38,764	38,764	32,587
Catering income	-	74,278	74,278	75,733
Other income	-	123,831	123,831	107,126
	-	304,400	304,400	280,527
Teaching school hub				
DfE teaching school grants	-	632,831	632,831	718,467
	-	4,610,499	4,610,499	4,477,889
Total 2024	-	4,477,889	4,477,889	

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024/25 Total £	2023/24 Total £
Hire of facilities	14,080	-	14,080	7,685
Total 2024	7,685	-	7,685	

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

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

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024/25 Total £	2023/24 Total £
Short term deposits	12,874	-	12,874	10,931
Total 2024	10,931	-	10,931	

7 Expenditure

	Staff costs £	Non Pay Expenditure		Total 2024/25 £	Total 2023/24 £
		Premises £	Other £		
Academy's educational operations:					
Direct costs	2,919,731	-	525,559	3,445,290	3,350,224
Allocated support costs	547,037	171,664	592,300	1,311,001	1,328,492
	3,466,768	171,664	1,117,859	4,756,291	4,678,716
Total 2024	3,278,445	212,536	1,187,735	4,678,716	

Net income/(expenditure) for the period includes:

	2024/25 £	2023/24 £
Operating lease rentals	4,743	3,973
Depreciation	161,742	136,710
(Gain)/loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	970
Fees payable to auditor for:		
Audit	7,250	6,005
Other services	11,718	7,010

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

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

8 Charitable activities

	2024/25	2023/24
	Total	Total
	£	£
Direct costs – educational operations	3,445,290	3,350,224
Support costs – educational operations	1,311,001	1,328,492
	<u>4,756,291</u>	<u>4,678,716</u>

Analysis of support costs:

	Educational operations	2024/25	2023/24
		Total	Total
	£	£	£
Support staff costs	547,037	547,037	530,192
Depreciation	161,742	161,742	136,710
Technology costs	42,412	42,412	45,649
Premises costs	171,664	171,664	212,536
Other support costs	380,896	380,896	396,060
Governance costs	7,250	7,250	7,345
Total support costs	<u>1,311,001</u>	<u>1,311,001</u>	<u>1,328,492</u>
Total 2024		<u>1,328,492</u>	<u>1,328,492</u>

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

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

9 Staff

a) Staff costs and employee benefits

Staff costs during the period were:

	2024/25	2023/24
	£	£
Wages and salaries	2,583,033	2,442,848
Social security costs	232,834	203,995
Pension costs	602,593	576,179
	<u>3,418,460</u>	<u>3,223,022</u>
Agency staff costs	48,308	55,423
	<u>3,466,768</u>	<u>3,278,445</u>

b) Staff numbers

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

	2024/25	2023/24
	No.	No.
Teachers	31	32
Administration and support	59	58
Management	5	5
	<u>95</u>	<u>95</u>

c) Higher paid staff

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

	2024/25	2023/24
	No.	No.
£60,001 - £70,000	2	1
£70,001 - £80,000	1	-
£80,001 - £90,000	-	1
£90,001 - £100,000	1	-

d) 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 and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £480,452 (2024: £442,064).

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

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

10 Related Party Transactions – Trustees’ remuneration and expenses

During the period ended 31 August 2025, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2024: none).

During the period ended 31 August 2025, travel and subsistence expenses totalling £394 were reimbursed or paid directly to two Trustees (2024: £397 to two Trustees).

11 Trustees' and officers' insurance

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

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold Land and Buildings £	Leasehold Improve- ments £	Furniture and Equipment £	Computer Equipment £	Motor Vehicles £	Total £
Cost						
At 1 September 2024	3,880,969	1,308,355	88,845	188,915	34,650	5,501,734
Additions		5,127	-	13,799	-	18,926
At 31 August 2025	<u>3,880,969</u>	<u>1,313,482</u>	<u>88,845</u>	<u>202,714</u>	<u>34,650</u>	<u>5,520,660</u>
Depreciation						
At 1 September 2024	768,936	652,552	81,090	176,686	34,650	1,713,914
Charged in year	59,148	88,845	2,868	10,881	-	161,742
At 31 August 2025	<u>828,084</u>	<u>741,397</u>	<u>83,958</u>	<u>187,567</u>	<u>34,650</u>	<u>1,875,656</u>
Net book values						
At 31 August 2024	3,112,033	655,803	7,755	12,229	-	3,787,820
At 31 August 2025	<u>3,052,885</u>	<u>572,085</u>	<u>4,887</u>	<u>15,147</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,645,004</u>

13 Debtors

	2024/25 £	2023/24 £
Trade debtors	3,771	2,730
VAT recoverable	9,920	25,377
Prepayments and accrued income	89,628	71,269
	<u>103,319</u>	<u>99,376</u>

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

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

14 Current asset investments

	2024/25	2023/24
	£	£
Bank deposits	211,130	206,182

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024/25	2023/24
	£	£
Trade creditors	65,090	81,591
Other taxation and social security	57,571	47,411
Other creditors falling due within one year	84,809	93,494
Accruals and deferred income	219,270	197,133
	<u>426,740</u>	<u>419,629</u>

	2024/25	2023/24
	£	£
Deferred income at 1 September 2024	131,943	114,808
Released from previous years	(131,943)	(114,808)
Resources deferred in the year	172,176	131,943
Deferred income at 31 August 2025	<u>172,176</u>	<u>131,943</u>

At the balance sheet date the academy trust was holding funds received in advance in respect of UIFSM funding received for the forthcoming academic year.

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

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

16 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	Balance at 31 August 2025 £
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	3,005,720	(3,005,720)	-	-	-
Pupil premium	-	143,795	(143,795)	-	-	-
UIFSM	-	115,933	(115,933)	-	-	-
Rates reclaim	-	13,209	(13,209)	-	-	-
PE and sports grant	-	21,630	(21,630)	-	-	-
Teachers' pay grant	-	47,552	(47,552)	-	-	-
Teachers' pension grant	-	57,603	(57,603)	-	-	-
Core schools budget grant	-	99,664	(99,664)	-	-	-
NICs grant	-	25,534	(25,534)	-	-	-
Teaching School Grants	-	(2,166)	2,166	-	-	-
Local authority grants	-	142,628	(142,628)	-	-	-
English Hub	-	634,997	(634,997)	-	-	-
Other educational activities	553,062	304,400	(261,450)	(48,807)	-	547,205
	<u>553,062</u>	<u>4,610,499</u>	<u>(4,567,549)</u>	<u>(48,807)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>547,205</u>
Pension reserve	-	-	(27,000)	-	27,000	-
	<u>553,062</u>	<u>4,610,499</u>	<u>(4,594,549)</u>	<u>(48,807)</u>	<u>27,000</u>	<u>547,205</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Fixed asset fund	3,787,820	-	(161,742)	18,926	-	3,645,004
DfE capital grants (DFC)	-	11,335	-	(11,335)	-	-
MUGA resurfacing funds	-	-	-	41,216	-	41,216
	<u>3,787,820</u>	<u>11,335</u>	<u>(161,742)</u>	<u>48,807</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,686,220</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>4,340,882</u>	<u>4,621,834</u>	<u>(4,756,291)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>27,000</u>	<u>4,233,425</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>161,705</u>	<u>26,954</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>188,659</u>
Total funds	<u>4,502,587</u>	<u>4,648,788</u>	<u>(4,756,291)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>27,000</u>	<u>4,422,084</u>

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

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

16 Funds (continued)

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

General annual grant

This includes all funding received from the DfE to carry out the objectives of the Academy Trust. It includes the school budget share; minimum funding guarantee; education services grant; insurance; rates; and pre-16 high needs funding streams.

Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM)

This represents funding received from the DfE to offer free school meals to pupils in reception, year 1 and year 2.

Core Schools Budget Grant (CSBG)

This represents additional funding received from the DfE to support the Academy Trust with its overall costs.

National Insurance contributions (NICs) grant

This represents additional funding received from the DfE to support the Academy Trust with its additional costs arising from the increase in national insurance contribution rates.

Other DfE grants

This is funding received from the DfE for specific purposes.

Local authority grants

This is funding received from the local authority for specific purposes, for example Special Educational Needs funding.

Other educational activities

This includes all other educational income/expenditure.

Pension reserve

This represents the negative reserve in respect of the liability on the LGPS pension scheme which was transferred to the Academy Trust on conversion. As at 31 August 2025 the Academy Trust's share of the net assets in the scheme is now in surplus, but, as no pension asset has been recognised, the balance on the reserve is £nil.

Fixed asset fund

The fund includes the value of the tangible fixed assets of the academy on conversion, and amounts transferred from GAG or other restricted funds specifically for expenditure on tangible fixed assets, and the annual charges for depreciation of these assets.

DfE capital grants

This is funding received from the DfE specifically for expenditure on capital improvements.

Transfers between funds

Transfers to the restricted fixed asset fund represent the cost of fixed asset additions which have been funded from restricted or unrestricted general funds.

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

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

16 Funds (continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	2,879,074	(2,879,074)	-	-	-
Pupil premium	-	168,673	(168,673)	-	-	-
UIFSM	-	115,368	(115,368)	-	-	-
Rates reclaim	-	12,523	(12,523)	-	-	-
PE and sports grant	-	21,640	(21,640)	-	-	-
MSAG	-	91,823	(91,823)	-	-	-
Teachers' pay grant	-	47,533	(47,533)	-	-	-
Teachers' pension grant	-	24,001	(24,001)	-	-	-
Other DfE grants	-	17,953	(17,953)	-	-	-
Local authority grants	-	100,307	(100,307)	-	-	-
English Hub	-	589,147	(589,147)	-	-	-
Accelerator Fund	-	129,320	(129,320)	-	-	-
Other educational activities	665,762	288,365	(301,674)	(99,391)	-	553,062
	<u>665,762</u>	<u>4,485,727</u>	<u>(4,499,036)</u>	<u>(99,391)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>553,062</u>
Pension reserve	(90,000)	-	(42,000)	-	132,000	-
	<u>575,762</u>	<u>4,485,727</u>	<u>(4,541,036)</u>	<u>(99,391)</u>	<u>132,000</u>	<u>553,062</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Fixed asset fund	3,356,849	-	(137,680)	568,651	-	3,787,820
DfE capital grants (DFC)	-	11,335	-	(11,335)	-	-
DfE capital grants (CIF)	456,618	1,307	-	(457,925)	-	-
	<u>3,813,467</u>	<u>12,642</u>	<u>(137,680)</u>	<u>99,391</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,787,820</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>4,389,229</u>	<u>4,498,369</u>	<u>(4,678,716)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>132,000</u>	<u>4,340,882</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>143,089</u>	<u>18,616</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>161,705</u>
Total funds	<u>4,532,318</u>	<u>4,516,985</u>	<u>(4,678,716)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>132,000</u>	<u>4,502,587</u>

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

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

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Un- restricted funds	Restricted general funds	Restricted pension funds	Restricted fixed asset funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	3,645,004	3,645,004
Current assets	188,659	973,945	-	41,216	1,203,820
Current liabilities	-	(426,740)	-	-	(426,740)
Total net assets	188,659	547,205	-	3,686,220	4,422,084

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

	Un- restricted funds	Restricted general funds	Restricted pension funds	Restricted fixed asset funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	3,787,820	3,787,820
Current assets	161,705	972,691	-	-	1,134,396
Current liabilities	-	(419,629)	-	-	(419,629)
Total net assets	161,705	553,062	-	3,787,820	4,502,587

18 Long-term commitments, including operating leases

Operating leases

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

	2024/25	2023/24
	£	£
Amounts due within one year	6,280	2,615
Amounts due between one and five years	10,488	-
	<u>16,768</u>	<u>2,615</u>

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

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

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

	2024/25	2023/24
	£	£
Net expenditure for the reporting period	(107,503)	(161,731)
Adjusted for:		
Depreciation	161,742	136,710
(Gain)/loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	970
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(11,335)	(12,642)
Interest receivable	(12,874)	(10,931)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	27,000	36,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	-	6,000
Increase in debtors	(3,943)	(10,749)
Increase in creditors	7,111	35,727
Net cash provided by Operating Activities	<u>60,198</u>	<u>19,354</u>

20 Cash flows from investing activities

	2024/25	2023/24
	£	£
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	12,874	10,931
Increase in current asset investments	(4,948)	(3,688)
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(18,926)	(568,651)
Capital grants from DfE Group	11,335	501,354
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities	<u>335</u>	<u>(60,054)</u>

21 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2024/25	2023/24
	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>889,371</u>	<u>828,838</u>

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

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

22 Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2024 £	Cash flows £	Acquisition/ disposal of subsidiaries £	New finance leases £	Other non-cash changes £	At 31 August 2025 £
Cash	828,838	60,533	-	-	-	889,371
Total	828,838	60,533	-	-	-	889,371

23 Member liability

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

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

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

24 Pension and similar obligations

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

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

Contributions amounting to £63,880 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2025 (2024: £62,260) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme to which both 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 four years. The aim of the review is to ensure scheme costs are recognised and managed appropriately and the review specifies the level of future contributions.

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

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

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

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

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

24 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £391,985 (2024: £353,873).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website.

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2025 was £252,000 (2024: £235,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £184,000 (2024: £178,000) and employees' contributions totalled £68,000 (2024: £57,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 17.9% for employers and 5.5% to 12.5% for employees.

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

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2025	2024
Rate of increase in salaries	3.7%	3.7%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.7%	2.7%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	6.1%	5.0%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.7%	2.7%
Commutation of pensions to lump sums	70.0%	70.0%

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

	2025	2024
Retiring today		
Males	22.3	22.0
Females	24.8	24.7
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	22.7	22.5
Females	25.7	25.6

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

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

24 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Sensitivity analysis

	Increase/(reduction) in defined benefit obligation	
	2025	2024
	£	£
Discount rate +0.1%	(64,000)	(74,000)
Discount rate -0.1%	64,000	74,000
Mortality assumption – 1 year increase	133,000	144,000
Mortality assumption – 1 year decrease	(133,000)	(144,000)
CPI rate +0.1%	63,000	73,000
CPI rate -0.1%	(63,000)	(73,000)

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

	2025	2024
	£	£
Equities	1,792,000	1,984,000
Gilts	1,127,000	1,335,000
Property	298,000	253,000
Cash and other liquid assets	99,000	36,000
Total market value of assets	<u>3,316,000</u>	<u>3,608,000</u>

The actual return on scheme assets was a gain of £216,000 (2024: £300,000).

Amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities

	2024/25	2023/24
	£	£
Current service cost	211,000	214,000
Interest income	(186,000)	(168,000)
Interest cost	186,000	174,000
Total amount recognised in the SOFA	<u>211,000</u>	<u>220,000</u>

Newman Catholic Academy Trust

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

24 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

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

	2024/25	2023/24
	£	£
At 1 September	3,608,000	3,234,000
Current service cost	211,000	214,000
Interest cost	186,000	174,000
Employee contributions	68,000	57,000
Actuarial gain	(706,000)	(15,000)
Benefits paid	(51,000)	(56,000)
At 31 August	<u>3,316,000</u>	<u>3,608,000</u>

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

	2024/25	2023/24
	£	£
At 1 September	3,608,000	3,144,000
Interest income	186,000	168,000
Actuarial (loss) / gain	(679,000)	117,000
Employer contributions	184,000	178,000
Employee contributions	68,000	57,000
Benefits paid	(51,000)	(56,000)
At 31 August	<u>3,316,000</u>	<u>3,608,000</u>

A defined benefit plan asset of £724,000 (2024: £15,000) has not been recognised as the Academy Trust does not expect to be able to recover the surplus either through reduced contributions in the future or through refunds from the plan.

25 Related party transactions

No related party transactions took place in the period of account, other than certain Trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 10.