

Company registration number 08589525 (England and Wales)

SOUTH BANK ACADEMIES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2025

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members

London South Bank University (LSBU)
David Phoenix (resigned 4 June 2025)
Deborah Johnston (appointed 4 June 2025,
resigned 8 September 2025)
Paul Kett (appointed 8 September 2025)
Simon Cruickshank

Trustees

Fiona Morey (Accounting Officer)
David Phoenix (resigned 4 June 2025)
Deborah Johnston (appointed 4 June 2025,
resigned 8 September 2025)
Paul Kett (appointed 8 September 2025)
Markos Daskalakis (appointed 4 September 2025)
Safia Barikzai (appointed 6 May 2025)
Rhoda Egharevba (appointed 22 July 2025)
Trevor Gordon
Antony Moss
Zacharias Yiallourous
Joanne Young
Ruth Spellman (Chairperson)

Senior management team

Chief Executive Officer
Principal - South Bank University Academy
Principal - South Bank University Sixth-form
Vice Principal Finance & Performance

Fiona Morey
Annette Moses
Kishan Pithia
Chris Knell

Company secretary

Samuel Curtis

Company registration number

08589525 (England and Wales)

Registered office

103 Borough Road
London
SE1 0AA
England

Academies operated

South Bank University Sixth-form
South Bank University Academy

56 Brixton Hill, Brixton, London, SW2 1QS
Trafalgar Street, London, SE17 2TP

Independent auditor

RSM UK Audit LLP
25 Farringdon Street, London, EC4A 4AB

Internal auditor

KPMG LLP
15 Canada Square, London, E14 5GL

Bankers

Lloyds Bank PLC
25 Gresham Street, London, EC2V 7HN

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, a directors' report and strategic report under company law.

The Academy Trust operates academies for pupils aged 7 to 18, serving catchment areas in the London Boroughs of Southwark and Lambeth. It has a pupil capacity of 1,500 and had a roll of 782 in the school census 2024/25.

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 charitable company operates as South Bank Academies and trades as South Bank University Academy (SBUA, formerly known as South Bank University Academy of Engineering) and South Bank University Sixth-form (SBUS, formerly known as South Bank University Technical College).

The Trustees of South Bank Academies are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. Details of the Trustees who served during the year, and to the date these financial statements are approved, are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

Members' liability

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

Trustees' indemnities

The Academy Trust maintains liability insurance for its Trustees through the Risk Protection Arrangement, to a maximum of £10,000,000 per loss per year.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is composed as follows:

- Trustees appointed by the sponsor, London South Bank University (LSBU)
- The Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
- The Chairs of the School Advisory Boards (to a maximum of 3)
- Co-opted Trustees

Three Trustees were appointed during the year: Safia Barikzai on 6 May 2025, Rhoda Egharevba on 22 July 2025 and Deborah Johnston replaced David Phoenix on 4 June 2025. Following year end, Paul Kett replaced Deborah Johnston on 8 September 2025.

*Between June and September, following David Phoenix's departure, Deborah Johnston acted as a Member on an interim basis so that the Trust maintained the required minimum of three Members. While the Register of Members reflected this interim arrangement, this was inadvertently not filed at Companies House. Paul Kett's appointment in September was duly registered at Companies House."

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

All new Trustees receive an induction, both in-house and outsourced. New Trustees meet with the CEO, the Chair of the Academy Trust, the Chair of the relevant committees and the Executive Principal to discuss the operations and strategy of the Academy Trust. They meet with the governance team to review the expectations of the governance role and how they will be supported while carrying out their role. The training and development programme for Trustees and local governors focuses on resources provided by the National Governance Association (NGA) and other organisations. Training is also provided by London Borough of Southwark.

Organisational structure

The Academy Trust is responsible for running SBUA and SBUS. The Academy Trust, headed by a Board of Trustees, is responsible for overseeing the business of the Academy Trust and may exercise all the powers of the Academy Trust. The Board has three sub-committees: Audit and Finance Committee, Group Nomination Committee and Quality Committee. Both schools have a School Advisory Board. The matters reserved to the Board and responsibilities delegated to the School Advisory Boards are set out in a Scheme of Delegation approved by the Board. Under the Scheme of Delegation, the School Advisory Board is primarily focused on reviewing, challenging and advising on the local School Development Plan, academic performance and support, key Link Governor roles, and support and advocacy for the school with parents and the community. Although local control is delegated, the Board remains responsible for ensuring that standards are maintained across all academies. The Board, with its oversight of all the schools, will ensure sharing of best practice, professional development and effective resource management, delivering value for money. The Academy Trust has no subsidiary companies.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The LSBU Remuneration Committee determines the annual remuneration of senior post holders which includes the Academy Trust CEO – this is done in consultation with the Chair of the Board each year. The pay of other senior staff is set out in the Pay Policy and does not require Remuneration Committee approval. The CEO is employed by South Bank Colleges, which pays her salary which is accounted for as donated to the Academy Trust.

Trade union facility time

In accordance with the Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2017, we are required to publish certain information on trade union officials and facility time. During the period from 1 September 2024 – 31 August 2025, the Academy Trust employed no union representatives and, therefore, there is no time, pay costs or paid trade union activities to report (2024: None).

Related parties, connected charities and co-operation with other organisations

Owing to the nature of the Academy Trust and the composition of the Board of Trustees, which is drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the Academy Trust has an interest. London South Bank University (LSBU) sponsors South Bank Academies, which was established as part of the University's mission and which has developed a close working relationship with the University Group. The University appoints the majority of Trustees to the Board of South Bank Academies. LSBU operates two subsidiaries: South Bank Colleges and London South Bank University Enterprises Ltd.

Full details of transactions occurring between related parties during the period is provided within the notes to the financial statements accompanying this report.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Public benefit

South Bank Academies is an exempt charity within the meaning of the Charities Act 2011 and is regulated by the Secretary of State for Education on behalf of the Charity Commission. The members of the Board of Trustees are the charitable Trustees of the Academy Trust. In undertaking its duties, the Board of Trustees has given due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Charitable objects

South Bank Academies' charitable objects, as set out in its articles of association, are outlined as 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 schools offering a broad and balanced curriculum which includes provision for technical education".

The Academy Trust's objects are applied solely for the public benefit. In practical terms the Academy Trust, aims to:

- provide high quality secondary education, with a strong technical and vocational dimension, for the communities it serves
- raise attainment and progress for all pupils, with a particular focus on pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds and those with special educational needs and disabilities
- prepare pupils for successful next steps in education, training and employment, including progression to higher education and technical and professional pathways
- promote pupils' personal development, wellbeing and safeguarding and support their wider engagement in their communities

The principal issues the Academy Trust seeks to tackle include: low prior attainment on entry for some pupils, gaps in achievement between disadvantaged pupils and their peers, barriers to learning such as low attendance and behaviour concerns, and lower than desired progression into higher education, apprenticeships and technical routes for some groups. The Trust's educational offer, curriculum and pastoral support are designed to address these issues.

The Academy Trust advances education for the public benefit by:

- establishing and running two academy schools which offer a broad and balanced curriculum, including provision for technical education
- each school providing teaching and wider pastoral support to its students
- designing, setting, vetting and marking assessments and giving feedback to students
- providing enrichment, careers education, information, advice and guidance and supporting successful progression to sustained destinations

The Trustees use a range of qualitative and quantitative measures to assess the success of these activities during the reporting period. These measures include:

- pupil attainment and progress data at key stages and post sixteen, including outcomes for disadvantaged pupils and those with special educational needs and disabilities
- attendance and persistent absence data and information on behaviour, exclusions and safeguarding
- destinations data for school leavers, including progression to higher education, apprenticeships, employment with training and other sustained routes
- external evaluations such as Ofsted judgements and reports from school improvement partners
- feedback from pupils, parents and carers, staff and key external partners
- financial performance indicators and compliance with funding and regulatory requirements

For the reporting period, the Academy Trust's short-term aims were to deliver the agreed school improvement plans for each academy, secure improved outcomes in external examinations relative to national benchmarks, improve attendance and reduce exclusions, implement planned developments in the curriculum and technical pathways, and maintain sound financial management within approved budgets. The Academy Trust's longer term objectives, are to sustain the current educational provision, increase the proportion of pupils progressing to further/higher education, further develop the Trust wide technical curriculum and partnerships with employers, strengthen leadership and staff capacity across the Trust and ensure that the Trust's estates and resources remain fit for purpose and support high quality teaching and learning.

Beneficiaries

In carrying out its objects, the Academy Trust benefits its students and future students through teaching and learning activities. The Trustees affirm that the opportunity to benefit is not unreasonably restricted. The schools are committed to open, fair and transparent admissions arrangements and act in accordance with the School Admissions Code.

Improving educational outcomes

We have defined our Academy Trust level strategy informed by the LSBU Group corporate strategy 2025-30. In it, we have articulated our mission: South Bank Academies seeks to provide excellent education for our learners in its widest

sense, securing excellent outcomes, providing unrivalled care, advice and guidance, and supporting high value pathways into higher education, employment or apprenticeships: We have distilled our offer into six features which make South Bank Academies distinct and compelling in the local market.

1. Diversity of opportunities for our students to be positive citizens who actively improve the lives of others.
2. Access to technology brings opportunities for and expectations of powerful learning.
3. Outstanding personal care, information, advice and guidance to support progression.
4. Wealth of opportunities for students to develop social and cultural capital.
5. Excellent preparation for successful, high value professional and technical careers.
6. Unrivalled development of students' employability and professional skills within and beyond the LSBU Group.

STRATEGIC REPORT**Achievements and performance****South Bank University Academy**

South Bank University Academy (SBUA) was inspected by Ofsted in June 2022 and was assessed as *Good*, with inspectors noting that “pupils are safe and well cared for.” Pupils enjoy coming to school and value the strong sense of community that the academy promotes. They understand the school’s values of social justice, endeavour and kindness, and recognise why these principles are important in shaping their behaviour and attitudes. Leaders set high expectations for behaviour and ensure that everyone is treated fairly, which contributes to a positive and respectful culture across the school. Pupils are considerate towards one another, and incidents of bullying are rare; when issues do arise, pupils report that leaders address them promptly and effectively.

Staff know their pupils well and consistently encourage them to achieve their best. Pupils value the academic opportunities available to them and demonstrate strong engagement by working hard in lessons. They show resilience and determination, even when faced with challenging work, and actively participate in activities that extend and enrich their learning. The school makes effective use of its strong links with business and industry partners; for example, Year 10 pupils take part in events designed to develop enterprise and employability skills. Outcomes at KS4 and KS5 continue to improve, with results for the 2024/25 academic year representing the best performance the academy has achieved to date.

At SBUA, we believe that every student has the potential to succeed and we start investing in their future careers as soon as they join us. Students at SBUA enjoy access to unique opportunities as part of the London South Bank University Group (LSBU). Despite the improved student outcomes, the local demographic means that SBUA is experiencing significant falling rolls. The decision was made to freeze the Year 7 Pupil Admission Number for September 2025. SBUA is currently consulting with stakeholders on a proposal to transition to become a professional, technical sixth form from September 2026.

KS4 Results

- Over the past 3 years, the disadvantaged student gap has improved from -0.76% to +0.14%
- The progress of disadvantaged students has improved by over half a grade since last year from -0.18% to +0.91%, with pupil premium students out performing non-pupil premium students
- Value-added (Progress 8) in Mathematics GCSE increased significantly from -0.33% in 2024 to +1.36% in 2025
- The value-added (Progress 8) of all core GCSE subjects was positive in 2025.

KS5 Results

- % of students with 3+ A* - E grades has increased by 16% from last year
- % A* - A has quadrupled from last year
- % A* - B has more than doubled from last year
- This year marks the first time an SBUA student has secured a place at Oxbridge. They achieved 3 A* grades and is going to read Physics at Oxford
- % distinction to merit has gone up by 9% from last year

KS5 destinations

- 83% of students progressing to university compared with 60% previous year
- LSBU was most popular university choice with 23.3% attending compared with 4% in the previous year
- 4 students attending Russell Group universities compared with 1 last year (including Oxford).

South Bank University Sixth Form

South Bank University Sixth Form, opened by the Mayor of Lambeth in January 2024, continues to strengthen its position as an ambitious and growing provider of technical and academic post-16 education. As a new institution, the Sixth Form has not yet had an Ofsted inspection, but the most recent performance data presents a positive profile of learner achievement, progression and inclusion. The 2025–26 student body now comprises 338 learners, with 74% enrolled on Level 3 programmes and 26% on Level 2. The cohort is predominantly representative of the local community, with 92% identifying as Black, Asian or minority ethnic backgrounds, and a significant proportion accessing bursary, SEN support or EHCP provision. This profile demonstrates the Sixth Form’s commitment to widening participation and providing inclusive pathways into higher education and skilled employment.

Student achievement at Level 3 remains strong. All BTEC Extended Diploma programmes achieved 100% pass rates. High-grade performance continues to be a strength, with 36.9% of Level 3 BTEC entries achieving grades from DDD* to DDD and 80% securing grades from DDD* to MMM. Engineering remains the highest performing programme, with 57.1% achieving high grades, including triple distinction stars. Business continues to demonstrate secure and consistent outcomes, attaining results no lower than DDM. Health and Social Care maintained a strong grade profile, with the majority of students achieving at Merit or above.

Achievement strengthened across 2024–25. Level 3 BTEC programmes achieved 100% pass rates, with high distinctions across Engineering, Business and Health. A-levels also achieved a 100% pass rate, with 78.6% at A*–C and strong value-added in Mathematics. Level 2 vocational outcomes achieved 100% pass rates, alongside improved GCSE English and maths results. Progression remains a significant strength: 76% of learners progressed to higher education, including to Russell Group universities, and many secured apprenticeships across Levels 3–6. London South Bank University is the largest destination, especially for Engineering, Nursing, Health, Business and Finance pathways. Value-added varied between subjects, with disadvantaged learners and some groups performing less strongly. Retention affected headline results, and progression from Level 2 to Level 3 remained inconsistent. Overall, achievement moved forward significantly but still showed variation.

Destinations data presents a significant strength, with a high proportion of students progressing into civil engineering, mechanical engineering, business management and nursing. Apprenticeships were secured with recognised employers at Levels 3 to 6, further demonstrating alignment between curriculum intent and industry pathways.

Financial review

Total income for the year ended 31 August 2025 amounted to £8,808k (2024: £8,465k). Most of the Academy Trust's income comes from the Department for Education (DfE) in the form of recurrent grants for educational provision.

Total expenditure for the year ended 31 August 2025 amounted to £9,094k (2024: £8,532k). The largest component of the Academy Trust's expenditure is in relation to its staff costs which totalled £6,347k (2024: £6,239k).

Overall net expenditure (before other recognised gains and losses) was £286k (2024 £67k). After accounting for actuarial gains on the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), the overall net movement in the Academy Trust's fund balances were losses of £333k (2024: losses of £128k).

The total funds held by the Academy Trust at 31 August 2025 were £30,946k (2024: £31,279k). This comprised unrestricted deficit of £117k (2024: surplus £121k), restricted fixed asset funds £30,082k (2024: £30,432k) and restricted general funds of £981k (2024: £726k).

The unrestricted funds, which are presently negative, constitute the portion of reserves available to the Academy Trust for use towards meeting any of the charitable objects of the Academy Trust at the discretion of the Trustees. This, therefore, forms part of the Academy Trust's operational revenue reserves.

Financial and risk management

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed, in particular those relating to the specific teaching, provision of facilities and other operational areas of the academies within the Academy Trust, and its finances. The Trustees have implemented several systems to assess these risks as well as operational procedures and internal controls to manage these risks. Where significant financial risk remains, they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover.

Reserves policy

The Academy Trust aims to carry forward some resources from each school to support central services provided by the Academy Trust. After accounting for central costs, the Academy Trust aims to make a small surplus each year to cover the medium and long-term needs for renewal and replacement of major capital projects and unforeseen contingencies. As a general target, the Academy Trust aims to hold between 3% and 5% of recurrent funding as revenue reserves at any given time.

At 31 August 2025 the unrestricted revenue reserves are a deficit of £117k (2024: surplus £121k). Restricted revenue reserves on the same date amounted to £1,042k (2024: £726k). The aggregate of the balances provides total revenue reserves of £925k (2024: £847k). The Trustees are satisfied that the revenue reserves held at 31 August 2025 meet the reserves policy.

Investment policy

South Bank Academies does not operate an investment programme and any surplus cash balances are held with its bank, Lloyds Bank PLC.

Fundraising

The Academy Trust does not actively engage in fundraising activities (by way of appeals, collections, or otherwise seeking donations) and no third parties are used. The Trustees therefore do not consider that they are obliged to take account of regulations or best practice guidance notes for this area covered by the Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016.

PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES**Introduction**

Our schools are varied in both age, character and size and, have each developed and evolved differently over time. SBUA is a combination of new build (2013) and refurbished retained Victorian buildings. SBUS is a small footprint new build (2017) with shared use, with South Bank Colleges and a neighbouring Academy, of plant, fire safety, gas, electric, heating, security and water systems. Factors that have influenced changes to the school estate include school organisation, local demographic growth, changes in curriculum and in school premises and, area standards introduced and amended by the Government. In addition to planned, cyclical and preventative maintenance works, the Academy Trust also invests central funding across its schools. The Academy Trust is also developing its strategic approach to estates, with a group service implemented from September 2024.

Risks are identified and managed through the Academy Trust's risk management processes as described further in the governance statement forming part of this annual report. The Academy Trust risk register is the subject of careful and frequent review and aligns to the Academy Trust's strategy. It is presented in a format common to the LSBU Group to allow for scrutiny and challenge by the audit and risk committee. The principal risks which the institution faces and associated mitigation strategies are as follows:

Risk	Controls and mitigating strategies
Poor demographics leads to failure of the schools to recruit sufficient learners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketing strategy in place at both schools • Increased marketing investment • Admissions policy review • Parent/Carer communication and wider word of mouth building • Effective networking including with potential feeder schools
Poor financial performance by one or more of the schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of Integrated Curriculum and Financial Planning • Effective budgeting and management • Prudent financial planning with 3-5 year forecast • Staffing and budget scrutiny and review • Capital expenditure planning • Reserves policy
Changes in personnel/ high turnover of staff creating instability in operations at the Academy Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experienced financial management in the Academy Trust • Experienced Financial Controller oversight from Group • Experienced HR oversight from Group
Cybersecurity incident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal Audit • Hardware upgrades being implemented • Software upgrades being implemented, including off-site backup to cloud services • Experienced IT oversight from Group
Financial Controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External and Internal Audit • Monthly management accounts provided to board • Regular executive team meetings where financial performance is discussed • Review of financial management and policies

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

The Academy Trust's plans for future period include the transition of SBUA to a professional and technical sixth form in line with the SBUS model with each sixth form offering distinct level 2 and 3 pathways aligned to national, regional and local skills pathways.

- SBUA: Life Sciences, Digital Media, Computing, Marketing
- SBUS: Health Services, Engineering, Business and Finance

Expansion of the unique KS4 TechStart programme enabling young people across South London to access high quality professional and technical education as part of their KS4 programme.

Continue to develop and expand our Future pathways programme that provides students with an extensive enrichment programme that supports them in developing career plans for successful futures and raises the participation of young people progressing to level 4 professional and technical education routes.

Expand our employer networks and sponsorship to ensure our curriculum is aligned to industry knowledge, skills and behaviours and, our students have rich opportunities for engagement with employers and the work place.

SBA to act as a conduit for partnerships and engagement with primary and secondary schools across South and Central London supporting pathways to opportunity and raising the profile of professional and technical education routes into good jobs.

Student success

- Continue to innovate the curriculum to drive the acquisition of powerful knowledge, to support the development of professional and technical capability and to build social and cultural capital.
- Raise achievement (attainment and progress) across the Academy Trust schools through rigorous focus on the quality of education, curriculum design, sequencing and delivery, assessment and intervention programmes.
- Further develop delivery and assessment models which support responsive teaching based on high-quality, personalised feedback. This is particularly a focus following the summer examination cycle.
- Refine and develop pedagogies including through the LSBU Group structure to further improve the quality of teaching, learning and assessment to secure excellent outcomes for all learners regardless of background within a knowledge-rich curriculum.
- Develop and embed evidence-informed approaches to closing the gap between groups of learners, especially boys and the most disadvantaged as well as other identified groups.
- Target resource and intervention into reducing variability in performance between departments and subject areas.
- Further enhance wellbeing and pastoral support for students to understand and mitigate the barriers to success.
- Continue to build support for learners with a focus on high-quality advice and guidance to support destinations and pathways; improve access to labour market information and support from external stakeholders.
- Further improve and align self-evaluation and improvement planning, using rich data and other management information to improve the quality of education.
- Further develop an Academy Trust-wide and Group-wide approach to staff development and talent management in order to support recruitment, progression and retention of high-quality staff.
- Generate, share, publish and learn from insight and research within, across and beyond the group in order to increase expertise and improve the quality of education.

Access to opportunity

- Create an even wider range of high-quality education pathways to cater for the diversity of our current and potential learner population and to include development of Higher National Certificate model and pathways within LSBU Group and partner organisations.
- Embed interaction with stakeholders, sponsors and partners in a systematic way that all students benefiting and

transferring into high-quality destinations are supported and enabled.

- Develop a sustainable network of support to mentor and guide learners through education and into their chosen next steps.

Real world impact

- Further leverage LSBU group relationships to drive research to benefit the quality of teaching and learning. Ensure that insight and successes from our evidence-informed pedagogic practice is shared across the group to maximise impact.
- Develop student agency and enterprise through a range of activities, prioritising those which deliver local community benefit.
- Ensure that all learners, irrespective of background, make an active contribution to local and wider society through enrichment, project and service activities in line with the mission of the schools.
- Pursue enrichment work and engagements to make a positive difference in our communities, supporting our students to be positive citizens.

Fit for the Future

- Develop organisational capabilities and efficiency of operations to extend provision and generate improved value for money.
- Further develop scale and breadth of the Academy Trust and the London South Bank University Group offer, in terms of pathways and portfolio of curriculum subjects, including T levels and a broader range of technical qualifications.
- Explore alternative models of learning delivery, both in-person and remote, and utilise opportunities across the LSBU Group estate.
- Become financially sustainable by increasing student numbers to the Published Admission Number, as well as increasing the breadth of revenue-generating activity and targeted new offers of expanded sixth form provision.
- Develop and expand sponsor-led enrichment activities to enhance provision further. Extension of value add driven by LSBU group as well as engagement of a further tier of employer partners to support projects.
- Lead the way on developing the culture of our organisations, innovating to minimise workload and maximise wellbeing, valuing difference and celebrating success and articulating the benefits of our mission and values widely.
- Develop system leadership through wider collaborations, such as the Southwark School Learning Partnership (SSLP) and improve our ability to articulate and share thought leadership, for example through the publication of research.
- Secure judgements of at least 'Good' in all Ofsted inspections supported by robust self-evaluation and improvement planning; training, development and capacity-building activity; challenge and support through governance; internal and external review and validations.


AUDITOR

RSM UK Audit LLP, have indicated their willingness to continue in office.

Statement as to disclosure of information to auditors

The Trustees have confirmed that, as far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the auditor is unaware. Each of the Trustees have confirmed that they have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as Trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that it has been communicated to the auditor.

The Trustees' report is approved by order of the Board of Trustees and the strategic report (included therein) is approved by the Board of Trustees in their capacity as the directors at a meeting on 29 January 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Markos', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Markos Daskalakis
Acting Chair of Trustees

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**Scope of responsibility**

As Trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that South Bank Academies 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 Handbook and competency framework for governance.

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the principal, 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 South Bank Academies and the Secretary of State for Education. The accounting officer is 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 four times during the year (five including a strategy day). Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Ruth Spellman (Chair)	5	5
Safia Barikzai (appointed 06/05/25)	1	1
Rhoda Egharevba (appointed 22/07/25)	1	1
Trevor Gordon	3	5
Deborah Johnston (appointed 04/06/25)	1	1
Fiona Morey	5	5
Anthony Moss	3	5
David Phoenix (resigned 04/06/25)	4	4
Zacharias Yiallourous	2	5
Joanne Young	4	5

All Board and Committee meetings were quorate during 2024/25. Following several Trustee resignations towards the end of the 2023/24 accounting period, the Trust experienced challenges in identifying candidates with the appropriate skills and experience. Significant focus was, therefore, placed on strengthening Board membership, resulting in the appointment of three new Trustees during the year, with a fourth commenced in September 2025. Recruitment will continue into the new academic year, with priority given to appointing a further Trustee with an educationalist background.

The Board will continue to receive high level financial reporting, in addition to holding a dedicated session focused on strategic matters in conjunction with financial forecasting.

Conflicts of interest

The Academy Trust has a conflict of interest policy. Trustees and governors are required to declare any interests they have on appointment. Trustees and governors are expected to declare additional interests to the Board when they occur and are reminded annually to update their declarations of interests. Declarations of interest are included at the beginning of each agenda to allow Trustees or governors to declare any interest with any item of business on the agenda. A number of Trustees are also either governors of LSBU or members of the Executive of LSBU Group. The Secretary advises the Board if any matters under consideration could lead to a potential conflict for these Trustees between their duties to the Academy Trust and to LSBU. No potential conflicts were identified during the year.

Governance reviews

During 2023/24, the remit of the Audit and Finance Committee was expanded to include reviewing the budget and monitoring the Trust's financial position (as set out in the Scheme of Delegation). To strengthen scrutiny, the Committee also increased the number of its meetings from three to four during the year 2024/25. These changes have worked well, ensuring that management accounts and budgets are reviewed in detail by the Committee ahead of Board approval, in line with the Academies Trust Handbook provisions for trusts with income below £50m.

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

For 2024/25, the Board has commissioned an external governance review, which commenced in September 2025. This independent review will provide assurance on the effectiveness of the Trust's governance arrangements and support the Board's commitment to continuous improvement.

Sub-committees

The Board was supported by three Committees: Audit and Finance Committee, Group Nomination Committee and Quality Committee.

Audit and Finance Committee

The Committee's purpose is to monitor the internal and external audit functions, risk management, internal financial control, budget, and financial position. Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Zacharias Yiallourous (Chair)	4	4
Rhoda Egharevba (co-opted member, appointed 22/07/25)	4	4
John Cole (co-opted member)	4	4

Zac Yiallourous was acting Chair of the Committee for 2024/25. Rhoda Egharevba was a co-opted member of the Committee until July 2025 and was then appointed as a full Trustee. John Cole is a co-opted member of the Committee. Markos Daskalakis was appointed as the new Chair of the Committee and joined the Board as a Trustee in September 2025. For 2025/26, the Audit and Finance Committee will comprise four members: three Trustees and one co-opted member.

The Board regularly receives management accounts throughout the year. The Board considers that these nine meetings and its regular review of the management accounts have provided the Trustees with the opportunity to maintain effective oversight of funds.

Group Nomination committee

The Committee's purpose is to consider succession planning for the Board and to recruit new co-opted Trustees to the Board. The Committee did not meet this year and instead conducted its business via written correspondence.

Quality Committee

The Committee considers the quality of education provided by each of the schools through key performance indicators. The Committee considers and advises the Board on all aspects of the MAT's quality and improvement. Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Trevor Gordon (Chair)	3	3
Safia Barikzai (appointed 06/05/25)	1	1
Deborah Johnston (appointed 04/06/25)	2	3
Fiona Morey	2	3

Of the four scheduled meetings, one meeting was not quorate due to members being engaged with an Ofsted visit. This meeting was conducted as a discussion session only, with any items requiring Board approval carried forward to the following meeting.

Review of value for money

The Accounting Officer of SBA retains responsibility for ensuring that the Academy Trust secures good value in the use of public funds. Value for money is understood not only in terms of financial efficiency, but also in relation to the wider educational, social, and estates outcomes achieved with the resources provided by the taxpayer. Each year, the Accounting Officer reviews the use of resources and reports to the Board of Trustees on areas where further improvements can be made, including through the use of benchmarking data.

During the year, the Academy Trust has continued to demonstrate improved value for money through the following approaches:

- **Collaboration with the LSBU Group**

Our growing partnership with the LSBU Group continues to deliver significant benefits for both students and staff. These include unique opportunities rarely available in schools or academies, such as access to academics, subject specialists,

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

and professional networks. Collaboration with the University's Employability, Outreach, and Enterprise teams helps raise aspirations, build confidence, and develop essential skills among students. Staff benefit from participation in a wider professional community through initiatives such as CPD, reward and recognition schemes, and mentoring.

- **Transformational enrichment and student engagement**

Enrichment programmes, jointly designed with LSBU colleagues, provide students with experiences that extend learning and make full use of specialist university facilities including laboratories, workshops, libraries, and sporting facilities. Mini modules and masterclasses, often delivered alongside STEAM ambassadors, give students an early introduction to higher education and help broaden horizons. Collaborative projects with other local schools also enable sharing of teaching resources and expertise.

- **Shared Services Model**

Through a shared services model with LSBU, the Trust is able to access specialist professional services that provide expert advice and secure efficiencies. This arrangement ensures that school leaders and teaching staff can dedicate the majority of their time to supporting student progress and wellbeing.

- **Shared Resources and economies of scale**

The Academy Trust benefits from a centralised model that includes a CEO (Accounting Officer), Principals leading on academic matters, and a Vice Principal for Finance and Performance overseeing operational functions. Professional services such as HR, Marketing, Finance, Estates, IT, and Procurement are centralised or shared across academies, enabling consistency, efficiency, and best value. During the year, the Trust extended its use of group-wide procurement, achieving economies of scale through contracts for catering, cleaning, and other shared services.

- **Benchmarking**

The Trust benchmarks its performance against organisations of comparable size and complexity to inform decision-making and identify potential improvements. In the past year, benchmarking outcomes have contributed to a review of staffing structures within one academy.

- **Procurement and Tendering**

The Trust continues to take a group approach to procurement and tendering, ensuring best value through economies of scale and the use of professional expertise. All capital procurement processes comply with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook, including its thresholds for expenditure.

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, the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in South Bank Academies for the period from 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 from 1st 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:

- 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 Board 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 guidelines;
- Delegation of authority and segregation of duties; and
- Identification and management of risks.

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

During the year, internal audit reviews were conducted covering Estates Management, Achievement Reporting, Single Central Record, Safeguarding, and Operational Risk Management. Recommendations and action plans arising from these reviews were systematically followed up and implemented by the Trust to strengthen governance and operational controls.

Conclusion

The South Bank Academies Board 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 internal audit;
- The work of the external auditor; and
- The work of the 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 Audit and 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 audit and risk committee and the Accounting Officer, the Board of Trustees is of the opinion that the Academy Trust has an adequate and effective framework for governance, risk management and control.

Approved by order of the Board of Trustees on 29 January 2026 and signed on its behalf by:



Markos Daskalakis
Acting Chair of Trustees



Fiona Morey
Accounting Officer

SOUTH BANK ACADEMIES

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

As accounting officer of South Bank Academies, I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Trust Board of Trustees and the Department for Education (DfE) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Trust Handbook 2024, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

I confirm that I and the Academy Trust's Board of Trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds by the Academy Trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the Academy Trust's funding agreement and the Academies Trust Handbook 2024.

Between June and September, following David Phoenix's departure, Deborah Johnston acted as a Member on an interim basis so that the Trust maintained the required minimum of three Members. While the Register of Members reflected this interim arrangement, this was inadvertently not filed at Companies House. Paul Kett's appointment in September was duly registered at Companies House.

I confirm that no instances of material irregularity, impropriety or funding 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.



Fiona Morey
Accounting Officer

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

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

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

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

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

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 29 January 2026 and signed on its behalf by:



Markos Daskalakis
Acting Chair of Trustees

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SOUTH BANK ACADEMIES

Opinion

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

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.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees' are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual Report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Trustees' Report, which includes the Directors' Report and the Strategic Report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report and the Strategic Report included within the Trustees' Report have 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 Directors' Report or the Strategic Report included within the Trustees' Report.

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

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

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' responsibilities set out on page 17, the Trustees (who act as trustees for the charitable activities of the charitable company 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.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

Irregularities are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. The objectives of our audit are to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding compliance with laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, to perform audit procedures to help identify instances of non-compliance with other laws and regulations that may have a material effect on the financial statements, and to respond appropriately to identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations identified during the audit.

In relation to fraud, the objectives of our audit are to identify and assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud, to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud through designing and implementing appropriate responses and to respond appropriately to fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit.

However, it is the primary responsibility of management, with the oversight of those charged with governance, to ensure that the entity's operations are conducted in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations and for the prevention and detection of fraud.

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud, the audit engagement team:

- obtained an understanding of the nature of the sector, including the legal and regulatory framework that the charitable company operates in and how the charitable company is complying with the legal and regulatory framework;
- inquired of management, and those charged with governance, about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, including any known actual, suspected or alleged instances of fraud;
- discussed matters about non-compliance with laws and regulations and how fraud might occur including assessment of how and where the financial statements may be susceptible to fraud.

As a result of these procedures we consider the most significant laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the financial statements are FRS 102, Charities SORP (FRS 102), Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011, Academies Act 2010, Department for Education's Academy Trust Handbook and Academies Accounts Direction, the Trust governing document and tax legislation. We performed audit procedures to detect non-compliances which may have a material impact on the financial statements which included reviewing the financial statements including the Trustees' Report and evaluating relevant advice received from external advisors.

The most significant laws and regulations that have an indirect impact on the financial statements are those in relation to the Education Inspection Framework under the Education Act 2005 (as amended), Keeping Children Safe in Education under the Education Act 2002, the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. We performed audit procedures to inquire of management and those charged with governance whether the charitable company is in compliance with these law and regulations and inspected correspondence with regulatory authorities.

The audit engagement team identified the risk of management override of controls and income recognition as the areas where the financial statements were most susceptible to material misstatement due to fraud. Audit procedures performed included but were not limited to testing manual journal entries and other adjustments, evaluating the business rationale in relation to significant, unusual transactions and transactions entered into outside the normal course of business and reviewing revenue transactions to test whether these have been recognised in line with the applicable accounting policy.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

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

HCatchpool

HANNAH CATCHPOOL (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of RSM UK AUDIT LLP, Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants
25 Farringdon Street
London
EC4A 4AB

31st January 2026

SOUTH BANK ACADEMIES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

	Note	Unrestricted £'000	Restricted General Funds £'000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £'000	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Income and Endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	4	-	-	23	23	49
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	5	45	8,683	-	8,728	8,327
Other trading activities	6	57	-	-	57	89
Total income		102	8,683	23	8,808	8,465
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	8	340	8,320	434	9,094	8,532
Total expenditure	7	340	8,320	434	9,094	8,532
Net (expenditure)/income		(238)	363	(411)	(286)	(67)
Transfers between funds	16		(61)	61	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial loss in respect of pension schemes	22	-	(47)	-	(47)	(61)
Net movement in funds		(238)	255	(350)	(333)	(128)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		121	726	30,432	31,279	31,407
Total funds carried forward		(117)	981	30,082	30,946	31,279

All activities consist of continuing operations.

SOUTH BANK ACADEMIES

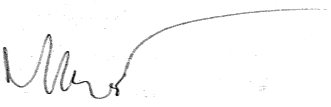
Company registration number 08589525

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025

	Note	2025		2024	
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Non-current assets					
Tangible fixed assets	13		30,082		30,284
Current assets					
Debtors	14	209		550	
Cash and cash equivalents		<u>2,147</u>		<u>1,132</u>	
		2,356		1,682	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>(1,492)</u>		<u>(687)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>864</u>		<u>995</u>
Net assets excluding pension asset			30,946		31,279
Defined benefit pension scheme asset	22		-		-
Total net assets			<u>30,946</u>		<u>31,279</u>
Funds of the Academy Trust					
<i>Restricted Reserves</i>	17				
-Restricted fixed asset fund			30,082		30,432
-Restricted income funds			<u>981</u>		<u>726</u>
Total restricted funds			31,063		31,158
Unrestricted income funds	17		(117)		121
Total funds			<u>30,946</u>		<u>31,279</u>

The financial statements on pages 21 to 41 were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on their behalf by:

and are signed on


Markos Daskalakis
Acting Chair of Trustees

SOUTH BANK ACADEMIES

STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

	Note	2025		2024	
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	19		1,224		(114)
Cash flows from investing activities					
Capital grants from DfE Group		23		25	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		<u>(232)</u>		<u>(313)</u>	
Net cash used in investing activities			(209)		(288)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			<u>1,015</u>		<u>(402)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			<u>1,132</u>		<u>1,534</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year			<u>2,147</u>		<u>1,132</u>

1. Accounting policies

General information

South Bank Academies is a charitable company (the 'Academy Trust'). It was incorporated on 28 June 2013 and is registered at Companies House under number 08589525. The Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The address of its principal place of business is given on page 1 and the nature of its operations are set out in the Trustees' Report.

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

Basis of preparation

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

The financial statements are presented in sterling which is also the functional currency of the Academy Trust. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest whole £1,000, except where otherwise indicated.

Going concern

The trustees of South Bank Academies have a responsibility to assess the financial viability and sustainability of the Trust. After reviewing the Trust's financial position, including its performance and future plans, the Trustees are satisfied that the Trust remains a going concern.

For the financial year ended 2025, the Trust delivered an operating surplus, demonstrating sound financial management and prudent decision making. Furthermore, the Trust has set a three year budget forecast that projects a net surplus over the period, supported by realistic and achievable assumptions. The budget incorporates anticipated income streams, including government funding and other revenue sources, and accounts for expected expenditure.

In addition, the Trust is generating positive cash flow and maintains sufficient reserves, ensuring that it has adequate liquidity to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Trustees have carefully considered potential risks, including pupil number projections, changes in government funding, inflationary pressures, and any other material uncertainties. Mitigation strategies are in place to manage these risks, ensuring the continued financial health of the Trust.

Based on this analysis, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that South Bank Academies Trust has adequate resources to continue its operations for the foreseeable future, and there are no material uncertainties regarding the Trust's ability to remain a going concern. Therefore, the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The Trustees have considered the going concern basis of preparation of the financial statements. Based on these considerations, the trustees have concluded that:

- The going concern basis of preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.
- There are no material uncertainties in connection with the going concern basis of preparation of the financial statements.
- The disclosures within the financial statement regarding going concern are adequate.

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.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

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 recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income until the performance-related conditions are met. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

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

Capital grants are recognised in full when there is entitlement, when performance-related conditions have been met, and are not deferred over the life of the asset on which they are expended. Unspent amounts of capital grants are reflected in the balance sheet in the restricted fixed asset fund.

Sponsorship income

Sponsorship income provided to the Academy Trust which amounts to a donation is recognised in the statement of financial activities in the period in which it is receivable (where there are no performance-related conditions), where the receipt is probable and it can be measured reliably.

Donations

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

Other income

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

Donated goods, facilities and services

Certain services are provided to the Academy Trust by the LSBU Group through LSBU personnel. Services such as governance support are recharged by the LSBU Group to the Academy Trust in full as disclosed within the related party transactions disclosure accompanying these financial statements. These are charged to the Academy Trust at no more than the cost of the service provision as determined by the LSBU group.

There are also certain employees of the LSBU Group that provide regular support to the Academy Trust as disclosed within the related party transactions disclosure accompanying these financial statements. The cost of their time is not recharged by LSBU to the Academy Trust, but instead effectively donated to the Academy Trust. The value of their time commitment to the Academy Trust is determined with reference to their cost of employment with LSBU and an estimate of the time expended on supporting the Academy Trust. This amount is recorded as both a cost to the Academy Trust, and also as a donation of the same value.

Donated fixed assets

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

Expenditure

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

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

Charitable activities

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

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

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

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

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, so as to write off the cost of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Long leasehold land and buildings	0.8% straight line
Long leasehold improvements	6.7% straight line
Computer equipment	33.3% straight line
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	20% straight line

Residual value is calculated on prices prevailing at the reporting date, after estimated costs of disposal, for the asset as if it were at the age and in the condition expected at the end of 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.

Leased assets

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

Financial Instruments

The Academy Trust has chosen to adopt Sections 11 and 12 of FRS 102 in full in respect of financial instruments.

Financial assets and liabilities

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the Academy Trust becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial liabilities are classified according to the substance of the financial instrument's contractual obligations, rather than the financial instrument's legal form.

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. A financial asset or financial liability that is payable or receivable in one year is measured at the undiscounted amount expected to be received or paid net of impairment, unless it is a financing transaction. If an agreement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

Financial assets and financial liabilities are offset only when there is a current legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the intention to either settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Derecognition of financial assets and liabilities

A financial asset is derecognised only when the contractual rights to cash flow expire or are settled, or substantially all the risks and the rewards of ownership are transferred to another party, or if some significant risks and rewards of ownership are retained but control of the asset has transferred to another party that is able to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party. A financial liability (or part thereof) is derecognised when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

Taxation

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

Pension benefits

Retirement benefits to employees of the Academy Trust are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme ('TPS') and the Local Government Pension Scheme ('LGPS'), which are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The LGPS is a funded multi-employer scheme of which the Academy Trust is a sponsoring employer in a number (each scheme exists independently under the LGPS Regulations) as set out in note 22 and the assets are held separately. 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 reporting date. The amounts charged to net income are 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 as other recognised gains and losses.

Actuarial gains and losses and (where applicable) the effect of the asset ceiling, are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses.

The LGPS assets are managed by the scheme trustees at scheme level, and the determination/allocation of assets to each individual employer in the scheme is managed by the scheme actuary. The assets are allocated to each employer for accounting purposes based on the valuation of the assets at the latest triennial valuation as adjusted for subsequent contributions received from the employer, asset returns and benefit payments made (either on a cash basis or actuarial basis).

The retirement benefit obligation recognised represents the deficit or surplus in the defined benefit plans. Any surplus resulting from this calculation is limited to the present value of any economic benefits available in the form of refunds from the plans or reductions in future contributions to the plans.

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 ESFA/DfE.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

Short term employment benefits

Short-term employment benefits such as salaries and compensated absences (holiday pay) are recognised as an expense in the year in which the employees render services to the Trust. The cost of any unused holiday entitlement the Trust expects to pay in future periods is recognised in the period the employees' services are rendered.

The best estimate of the expenditure required to settle an obligation for termination benefits is recognised immediately as an expense when the Trust is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

Depreciation

The annual depreciation charge is derived after determining an estimate of an asset's expected useful life and the expected residual value at the end of its life.

The useful lives of the Academy Trust's assets are determined by management at the time the asset is acquired and reviewed at least annually for appropriateness. The lives are based on historical experience with similar assets as well as anticipation of future events.

Donated salaries of LSBU Group personnel

As noted in the income recognition accounting policy above, there are certain employees of the LSBU Group that provide regular support to the Academy Trust as disclosed within the related party transactions disclosure accompanying these financial statements. The cost of their time is not recharged by the LSBU to the Academy Trust, but instead effectively donated to the Academy Trust. The value of their time commitment to the Academy Trust is determined with reference to their cost of employment with LSBU and an estimate of the time expended on supporting the Academy Trust.

Local government pension scheme

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit obligation depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 22, will impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions obligation 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 obligation.

SOUTH BANK ACADEMIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

3. Statement of financial activities - comparative year information

Year ended 31 August 2024	Unrestricted	Restricted General Funds	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds	Total 2024
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and capital grants	24	-	25	49
Charitable activities:				
- Funding for educational operations	67	8,260	-	8,327
Other trading activities	89	-	-	89
Total income	180	8,260	25	8,465
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities:				
- Educational operations	264	7,889	379	8,532
Total expenditure	264	7,889	379	8,532
Net (expenditure)/income	(84)	371	(354)	(67)
Other recognised gains/(losses)				
Actuarial loss in respect of pension schemes	-	(61)	-	(61)
Net movement in funds	(84)	310	(354)	(128)

4. Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Capital grants	-	23	23	25
Other donations	-	-	-	24
	-	23	23	49

5. Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
DfE / ESFA grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	4,367	4,367	4,637
Other DfE / ESFA grants:				
16-19 core education funding	-	2,901	2,901	2,519
Pupil Premium	-	249	249	435
Teachers pay grant	-	310	310	299
Others	-	594	594	224
	-	8,421	8,421	8,114
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	262	262	146
Other incoming resources	45	-	45	67
	45	8,683	8,728	8,327

SOUTH BANK ACADEMIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

6. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2025 £'000	Total 2024 £'000
Hire of facilities	57	-	57	89

7. Expenditure

	Staff costs £'000	Non-pay expenditure Premises £'000	Other £'000	Total 2025 £'000	Total 2024 £'000
Academy's educational operations:					
Direct costs	5,272	-	642	5,914	5,578
Allocated support costs	1,075	1,107	998	3,180	2,954
	6,347	1,107	1,640	9,094	8,532

Net income / (expenditure) for the year includes:

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Operating lease rentals	15	14
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	(4)	(10)
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	434	379
Fees payable to auditor for		
<i>Audit</i>	32	31
<i>Other services</i>	5	13

8. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2025 £'000	Total 2024 £'000
Direct costs				
Educational operations	42	5,872	5,914	5,578
Support costs				
Educational operations	298	2,882	3,180	2,954
	340	8,754	9,094	8,532

Analysis of support costs

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Support staff costs	1,075	1,209
Depreciation	434	379
Technology costs	147	199
Premises costs	673	641
Other support costs	678	476
Governance costs	173	50
	3,180	2,954

SOUTH BANK ACADEMIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

9. Staff	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Staff costs		
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	3,820	4,414
Social security costs	456	470
Other pension costs	717	838
Staff costs - employees	4,993	5,722
Agency staff costs	1,332	482
Staff restructuring costs	22	35
Total staff expenditure	6,347	6,239
Staff restructuring costs comprise:		
Severance payments (including special severance payments)	22	35
Exit payments		
The Academy Trust paid 3 (2024: 2) payments in the year, as follows:		
£0 - £25,000	3	2
Special staff severance payments		
Included in staff restructuring costs are special severance payments total £22,225 (2024: £34,745).		
Individually, the payments were: £3,946, £5,250, and £13,029.		
Staff numbers		
The average numbers of persons employed by the Academy Trust during the year was as follows:		
	2025 No.	2024 No.
Teachers	42	54
Administration and support	35	37
Management	8	9
	85	100
Higher paid staff		
The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000, was:		
	2025 No.	2024 No.
£60,001 - £70,000	8	-
£70,001 - £80,000	5	3
£80,001 - £90,000	2	4
£90,001 - £100,000	2	-
£100,001 - £110,000	1	1

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the Trustees and those individuals recorded as 'Key Management Personnel' on page 1 of the annual report. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension and national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy Trust was £926,584 (2024: £880,250).

SOUTH BANK ACADEMIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

10. Central Services

The Academy Trust has provided central services to its academies during the year, including human resources, financial services and educational support services. The Trust charges for these services which is calculated as 5.4% (2024: 8.2%) percent of GAG and 16-19 core education funding income of the individual schools.

The amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
South Bank University Sixth	115	130
South Bank University Academy	280	458
	395	588

11. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustee (2024: one) has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the Academy Trust. The principal and other staff Trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal and staff members under their contracts of employment, and not in respect of their services as Trustees.

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

	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
F Morey - Accounting Officer		
Remuneration	-	32
Employer's pension contributions paid	-	8
	-	40

During the year, nil Trustees were paid expenses totalling £nil (2024: nil Trustees were paid £nil) for travel and subsistence.

12. Trustees' and Officers' insurance

The Academy Trust has opted into that Department of Education's risk protection arrangement (RPA), an alternative to insurance where UK Government funds cover losses that arise. The 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.

SOUTH BANK ACADEMIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

13. Tangible fixed assets

	Long leasehold land and buildings	Long leasehold improve- ments	Computer equipment	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total
Cost					
At 1 September 2024	30,659	18	1,304	1,933	33,914
Additions	-	-	172	60	232
As at August 2025	30,659	18	1,476	1,993	34,146
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2024	1,026	9	1,241	1,354	3,630
Charge for the year	118	1	50	265	434
At 31 August 2025	1,144	10	1,291	1,619	4,064
Net book value					
At 31 August 2025	29,515	8	185	374	30,082
At 1 September 2024	29,633	9	63	579	30,284

14. Debtors

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Trade debtors	22	45
Vat recoverable	72	458
Prepayments and accrued income	115	47
	209	550

15. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Trade creditors	567	125
Other taxation and social security	21	100
Other creditors	85	74
Accruals	819	388
	1,492	687

SOUTH BANK ACADEMIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

16. Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2024 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2025 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	726	4,367	(4,051)	(61)	981
Pupil Premium	-	249	(249)	-	-
Teachers pay grant	-	310	(310)	-	-
16-19 core education funding	-	2,901	(2,901)	-	-
Other grants	-	594	(594)	-	-
Other government grants	-	262	(262)	-	-
Pension reserve	-	-	47	(47)	-
	726	8,683	(8,320)	(108)	981
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	29,633	-	(118)	-	29,515
DfE group capital grants	725	23	(316)	-	432
Local authority capital grants	26	-	-	-	26
Other transfers	48	-	-	61	109
	30,432	23	(434)	61	30,082
Total restricted funds	31,158	8,706	(8,754)	(47)	31,063
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	121	102	(340)	-	(117)
Total funds	31,279	8,808	(9,094)	(47)	30,946

The transfer from restricted general funds to Restricted fixed assets funds represents fixed assets purchased from GAG funding.

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

Restricted General Funds

All restricted funds are grants received from the department for Education and the Local Authority for the purpose of running the Academy. This also includes catering income received from pupils.

General Annual Grants

This includes all monies received from the ESFA (DfE from 1st April 2025) to carry out the objective of the Academy Trust. It also includes the School Budget Share and education services grants.

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

Other DfE/ESFA grants

This represent revenue grants received from the ESFA/DfE for specific purposes, including funds provided to support individual pupils with a SEN statement and development grants received by the Academy Trust.

SOUTH BANK ACADEMIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

16. Funds (continued)

Fixed asset fund

This fund includes the value of the tangible fixed assets of the academy on conversion, and acquired by capital grants, monies transferred from the GAG to other restricted funds specifically for expenditure on tangible fixed assets, and the annual charges for depreciation of these assets.

Funds prior year	Balance at 1 September 2023 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2024 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	416	4,637	(4,327)	-	726
Pupil Premium	-	435	(435)	-	-
Teachers pay grant	-	299	(299)	-	-
16-19 core education funding	-	2,519	(2,519)	-	-
Other grants	-	224	(224)	-	-
Other government grants	-	146	(146)	-	-
Pension reserve	-	-	61	(61)	-
	416	8,260	(7,889)	(61)	726
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	29,751	-	(118)	-	29,633
DfE group capital grants	961	25	(261)	-	725
Local authority capital grants	26	-	-	-	26
Other transfers	48	-	-	-	48
	30,786	25	(379)	-	30,432
Total restricted funds	31,202	8,285	(8,268)	(61)	31,158
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	205	180	(264)	-	121
Total funds	31,407	8,465	(8,532)	(61)	31,279

Total funds analysis by academy

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Fund balances at 31 August were allocated as follows:		
South Bank University Sixth	19	(18)
South Bank University Academy	1,111	926
Central services	(266)	(61)
Total before fixed assets fund and pension reserve	864	847
Restricted fixed asset fund	30,082	30,432
Pension reserve	-	-
Total funds	30,946	31,279

SOUTH BANK ACADEMIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

16. Funds (continued)

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £'000	Other support staff costs £'000	Educational supplies £'000	Other costs (excluding depreciation) £'000	Total 2025 £'000	Total 2024 £'000
South Bank University Sixth	1,460	349	203	616	2,628	1,624
South Bank University Academy	3,693	613	425	918	5,649	6,442
Central services	-	225	-	158	383	736
	5,153	1,187	628	1,692	8,660	8,802

17. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted £'000	Restricted General Funds £'000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £'000	Total £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2025 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	30,082	30,082
Current assets	-	2,356	-	2,356
Current liabilities	(117)	(1,375)	-	(1,492)
Total net assets	(117)	981	30,082	30,946

Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted £'000	Restricted General Funds £'000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £'000	Total £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	30,284	30,284
Current assets	121	1,413	148	1,682
Current liabilities	-	(687)	-	(687)
Total net assets	121	726	30,432	31,279

SOUTH BANK ACADEMIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

18. Long-term commitments

Operating leases:

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

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Amounts due within one year	5	15
Amounts due between one and five years	-	5
	<u>5</u>	<u>20</u>

19. Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Net expenditure for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(286)	(67)
<i>Adjusted for:</i>		
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(23)	(25)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	(47)	(51)
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	(4)	(10)
Depreciation charges	434	379
Movements in working capital:		
Decrease in debtors	341	41
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	<u>809</u>	<u>(381)</u>
Net cash used in Operating Activities	1,224	(114)

20. Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2024 £'000	Cash flows £'000	31 August 2025 £'000
Cash	1,132	1,015	2,147

21. Members' liability

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

SOUTH BANK ACADEMIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

22. Pension and similar obligations

The Academy Trust's employees belong to two principle pensions 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 London Borough of Lambeth and London Borough of Southwark. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

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

Contributions amounting to £85,946 (2024: £56,833) were payable to the schemes and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. These regulations apply to teachers in schools, colleges and other educational establishments. Membership is automatic for teachers and lecturers at eligible institutions. Teachers and lecturers are able to opt out of the TPS following enrolment.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and members contribute on a 'pay as you go' basis – these contributions, along with those made by employers, are credited to the Exchequer under arrangements governed by the above Act. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament. The Academy Trust has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme.

Valuation of The Teachers' Pension Scheme:

Not less than every four years the Government Actuary ("GA"), using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS. The aim of the review is to specify 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 was carried out as at 31 March 2020 and in accordance with The Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2023 and the Employer Contribution Rate was assessed using agreed assumptions in line with the Directions and was accepted at the original assessed rate as there was no cost control mechanism breach.

The valuation report was published on 26 October 2023. The key results of the valuation are: - Total scheme liabilities for service (the capital sum needed at 31 March 2020 to meet the stream of future cash flows in respect of benefits earned) of £262 billion - Value of notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the proceeds from the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222 billion - Notional past service deficit of £39.8 billion (2016 £22 billion) - Discount rate is 1.7% in excess of CPI (2016 2.4% in excess of CPI (this change has had the greatest financial significance)).

As a result of the valuation, new employer contribution rates have been set at 28.6% of pensionable pay from 1 April 2024 until 31 March 2027 (compared to 23.68% under the previous valuation including a 0.08% administration levy).

The employers pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £833,968 (2024: £626,000).

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in a separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as notes below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are an average between 13.6% and 22.8% for employers and between 5.5% and 12.5% for employees.

SOUTH BANK ACADEMIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

22. Pension and similar obligations (continued)

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

Total contributions made	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
Employers contributions	178	235
Employees' contributions	52	72
Total contributions	230	307

Principal actuarial assumptions

The following information is based upon a full actuarial valuation of the fund at 31 March 2022 updated to 31 August 2025 by a qualified independent actuary.

	2025	2024
	%	%
Rate of increase of salaries	3.2-4.0	3.2 - 3.9
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.5-2.7	2.4 - 2.7
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	6.10	4.9 - 5.0
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.5-2.7	2.4 - 2.7

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

	2025	2024
	Years	Years
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	21.2	20.8 - 21.0
Females	23.8-23.9	23.6 - 23.8
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	22.1-22.6	21.7 - 22.3
Females	24.9-25.4	24.7 - 25.3

The Academy Trust's share of the assets in the scheme	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
Equities	1,268	1,106
Bonds	368	317
Cash and other liquid assets	37	16
Property	314	268
Other assets	357	316
Total fair value of assets	2,344	2,023

The actual return on scheme assets was £111,000 (2024: £175,000).

SOUTH BANK ACADEMIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

22. Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
Current service cost	131	184
Net interest income	(4)	(10)
Total amount recognised	127	174
Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
At 1 September	1,681	1,492
Current service cost	131	184
Interest cost	84	76
Employee contributions	52	72
Actuarial loss	(495)	(103)
Benefits paid	(26)	(40)
At 31 August	1,427	1,681
Changes in the fair value of Academy's share of scheme assets	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
At 1 September	2,023	1,581
Interest income	105	86
Return on plan assets (excluding net interest on the net defined pension liability)	12	89
Employer contributions	178	235
Employee contributions	52	72
Benefits paid	(4)	(40)
At 31 August	2,366	2,023
	2025	2025
	£'000	£'000
Fair value of Employer Assets	2,344	2,023
Present value of funded obligations	(1,427)	(1,681)
Net pension asset	917	342
Restriction to level of asset ceiling	(917)	(342)
Net liability recognised in the balance sheet	-	-

The value of the academy trust's share of net assets has been restricted due to the effect of the asset ceiling being the maximum present value of the economic benefits available in the form of the unconditional right to reduced contributions from the plan. A corresponding charge has been made to other comprehensive income in the period.

SOUTH BANK ACADEMIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

22. Pension and similar obligations (continued)

The Academy trust is aware that the Court of Appeal has recently upheld the decision in the Virgin Media vs NTL Pension Trustees II Limited case. The decision puts into question the validity of any amendments made in respect of the rules of a contracted-out pension scheme between 6 April 1997 and 5 April 2016. The judgment means that some historic amendments affecting s.9(2B) rights could be void if the necessary actuarial confirmation under s.37 of the Pension Schemes Act 1993 was not obtained. On the 5 June 2025, the Government announced its intention to introduce legislation to give affected pension scheme the ability to retrospectively obtain written confirmation that historical benefit changes met the necessary standards. However, details of the legislation have not been announced and it's not clear how this interacts with the investigations made by the UL Government's Actuary's Department therefore the potential impact, if any, on the valuation of scheme liabilities remains unknown.

23. Related party

Owing to the nature of the Academy Trust and the composition of the Board of Trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, it is possible that transactions will take place with organisations in which a member of the Board of Trustees may have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

Organisation	Governor	Position	Transactions during year with related party			
			Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Debtor £'000	Creditor £'000
LSBU	David Phoenix	Trustee	-	-	-	-
South Bank Colleges	Fiona Morey	Executive Principal	-	159	-	159
SBUEL	Simon Cruickshank	Director	-	28	-	-

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON REGULARITY TO SOUTH BANK ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION

Conclusion

We have carried out an engagement in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 6 August 2024 and further to the requirements of the Department for Education ('DfE') as included in the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts issued by the DfE, to obtain limited assurance about whether anything has come to our attention that would suggest, in all material respects, the expenditure disbursed and income received by South Bank Academies Trust during the period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 have not been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament or the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

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.

Basis for conclusion

The framework that has been applied is set out in the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts.

We have complied with the independence and other ethical requirements of the FRC's Ethical Standard and the ethical pronouncements of the ICAEW. We also apply International Standard on Quality Management (UK) 1 Quality Management for Firms that Perform Audits or Reviews of Financial Statements, or Other Assurance or Related Services Engagements and accordingly maintain comprehensive systems of continuing quality management. We believe the assurance evidence we have obtained is sufficient to provide a basis for our conclusion.

Responsibilities of the accounting officer of South Bank Academies's Trust and trustees

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of South Bank Academies Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education and the Academy Trust Handbook, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received are applied for the purposes intended by Parliament, and that the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them. The accounting officer is also responsible for preparing the Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance. The trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the proper conduct and financial operation of South Bank Academy Trust and appointment of the accounting officer.

Responsibilities of the reporting accountant Responsibilities of the reporting accountant

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 Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts.

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 the procedures performed vary in nature and timing from, and are less in extent than for a reasonable assurance engagement; consequently a limited assurance engagement 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.

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.

Our work included identification and assessment of the design and operational effectiveness of the controls, policies and procedures that have been implemented to ensure compliance with the framework

of authorities including the specific requirements of the funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education, the Academy Trust Handbook and high level financial control areas where we identified a risk of material irregularity is likely to arise. It also included areas assessed as presenting a higher risk of impropriety. We undertook detailed testing, on a sample basis, based on the identified areas where a material irregularity is likely to arise, or potential impropriety where such areas are in respect of controls, policies and procedures that apply to classes of transactions. Our work was undertaken with due regard to the 'Evidence to support conclusion on regularity' guidance in the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts.

This work was integrated with our audit on the financial statements and evidence was also derived from the conduct of that audit to the extent it supports the regularity conclusion.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to South Bank Academies Trust and the Secretary of State for Education in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 6 August 2024. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the South Bank Academies 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 South Bank Academies Trust and the Secretary of State for Education, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

RSM UK Audit LLP

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31st January 2026