

Company registration number 07841435 (England and Wales)

**BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

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### Members

C M Craig  
Rev J Dodds (appointed 7 January 2025)  
Rev C P Leighton (resigned 7 January 2025)  
Rev S Lerche  
Rev M Millward (appointed 7 January 2025)  
Mr M Shorten (appointed 1 May 2025)  
F Standfield  
Bishop S J W Wright

### Trustees

D J Harrison (Chair of Trustees)  
G Hardy (Chair of Audit Committee)  
K McCourt  
J Gorlach  
M McGrady (Resigned 12 November 2024)  
A Miller  
P Chadwick  
A M Johnson  
P Stott (Appointed 23 October 2025)

### Key management personnel

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| - Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer                             | A Bath     |
| - Acting Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Chief Operating Officer)            | D Douglass |
| - Acting Deputy Chief Executive Office (Director School improvement Primary) | A James    |
| - Chief Finance Officer  | A Gollings |
| - SEND Lead  | N Taylor   |

### Company registration number

07841435 (England and Wales)

### Registered office

Fenham Hall Drive  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE4 9YH

### Independent auditor

RSM UK Audit LLP  
1 St. James' Gate  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
United Kingdom  
NE1 4AD

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

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### Bankers

Lloyds Bank  
102 Grey Street  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE1 6AG

### Solicitors

Muckle LLP  
Time Central  
32 Gallowgate  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE1 4BF

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

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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, and a directors' report and strategic report under company law.

The trust operates 34 primary and 5 secondary academies in the north east of England. Its academies have a combined pupil capacity of 15,101 and had a number on roll of 14,332 (figures as submitted on 2nd October 2025 for pupil census include nursery and 6th form provision).

It is our Trust's belief that 'A great education has the power to transform lives', enabling children to succeed, regardless of background or personal circumstances. It is at the core of why Catholic schools were established and what drives the ambition all our schools have for their children.

### STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

#### Constitution

The Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association (dated 29 May 2025) are the primary governing documents of the Trust.

The Trustees of Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purpose of company law. The charitable company operates as Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust.

Details of the Trustees who served during the year are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

#### Members' liability

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

#### Trustees' indemnities

Companies Act 2006 s236 requires disclosure concerning qualifying third-party indemnity provisions. As required in the Trust's Articles of Association Indemnity insurance has been taken out to cover the liability of Trustees which by virtue of any rule of law would otherwise attach to them in respect of any negligence, default, breach of trust or breach of duty of which they may be guilty in relation to the Trust. Provided that any such insurance shall not extend to any claim arising from any act or omission which the Trustees knew to be a breach of trust or breach of duty or which was committed by the Trustees in reckless disregard of whether it was a breach of trust or breach of duty or not and provided also that any such insurance shall not extend to the costs of any unsuccessful defence to a criminal prosecution brought against the Trustees in their capacity as Trustees.

#### Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the provisions set out in the Memorandum and Articles of Association. The members, in line with the Articles, must appoint no less than 3 but are not subject to a maximum of Trustees. In practice, the members see around eight Trustees as the optimum. The Diocesan Bishop shall always appoint such number of Foundation Trustees as to ensure that the number of Foundation Trustees exceeds the other Trustees (including any Co-opted Trustees) by at least two. The Board of Trustees is made up of individuals who have the variety of skills required for a Board of Trustees. The Chair of the Board will be duly elected on an annual basis. Foundation Trustees are appointed for a four year term with Co-opted Trustees appointed annually.

In recruiting Trustees, the Board of Trustees seeks interest from individuals with the skills and experience which complement those already in post. As stated in the Articles, the Trustees may appoint Trustees (other than persons who are employees of the Company) through such process as they may determine provided that any appointment will have first been approved by the Diocesan Department for Education in Hexham and Newcastle.

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

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### **Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Trustees**

The training and induction provided for new Trustees depends on their existing experience. Where necessary, induction and training is provided on charity, educational, legal and financial matters. All new Trustees are given the opportunity to visit schools and the chance to meet with staff and students. All Trustees are provided with access to policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as Trustees. As there are normally only one or two new Trustees a year, induction tends to be done informally and is tailored specifically to the individual.

### **Organisational structure**

The organisational structure of the Trust is based on the principles that:

The Members of the Company define the Object, Purpose and Ethos of the Company.

The Trustees, who form the Trust Board, have overall responsibility and ultimate decision-making authority for all the work of the Company, including the establishing and running of schools and, in particular, each academy as a school. This is largely exercised through strategic planning and the setting of policy. It is managed through the business planning, monitoring of budgets, performance appraisal, the setting and monitoring of standards and the implementation of quality assurance processes.

The Trustees have the power to direct change where required to ensure that the Object, Purpose and Ethos of the Company are met.

The Trustees delegate their responsibilities for the day-to-day operation of each academy and the whole of the funding granted by the Department of Education for the benefit of that academy directly to a Local Governing Committee (LGC) through a Scheme of Delegation (the Scheme). The Headteacher of each school is an ex officio member of the LGC.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is the Accounting Officer. The Executive Team consists of the CEO and its Executive leaders (Note, in September 2025 the Trust Board appointed 2 acting Deputy CEOs as part of its capacity building/people strategy. The Deputy remits are separately allocated to Finance & Operations and School Standards). The Executive Team control the Trust/schools at an executive level by implementing the policies laid down by the Trustees and reporting back to them regularly. Reporting to Trustees is done through a range of papers and standing items on agendas across the range of relevant sub committees and full Board meetings. Through the Scheme of Delegation, the CEO delegates the responsibility for the authorisation of spend of budgets (within the thresholds as specified in the Scheme of Delegation) and the appointment of staff to Headteachers at their schools. As per the Scheme of Delegation, the Trust's Finance Committee and Chief Operating Officer (COO) and/or Chief Finance Officer are required to approve spend at higher procurement thresholds. Some school spending control is further devolved by the Headteacher to members of their Senior Leadership Team (SLT) with financial limits above which the Headteacher must countersign. The Trustees review and approve the Trust's Finance handbook and associated delegation scheme annually.

Individual academy SLTs include the Headteacher, Deputy Headteachers, and Assistant Headteachers. These managers are responsible for the day-to-day operation of the school, in particular organising teaching staff, facilities, and students.

To assist the Trustees in their work, the Trust has established the following sub-committees:

- Standards & Intervention Committee;
- Finance & Resources Committee;
- Risk & Audit Committee; and
- Remuneration Committee (Meets annually re: CEO pay).

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

The Trust consists of the following 39 schools:

| School name  | No. | Phase     | Date joined BBCET   | Years within the Trust |
|--|-----|-----------|---|------------------------|
| Sacred Heart Catholic High School                  | 1   | Secondary | Previously members of Sacred Heart Partnership of schools (Aug 2017 - Aug 2020) | 8                      |
| St Michael's Primary School                        | 2   | Primary   |   | 8                      |
| Sacred Heart Primary School                        | 3   | Primary   |   | 8                      |
| <b>Bishop Bewick CET established 01/04/2020</b>    |     |           |   |                        |
| St Mary's Catholic High School                     | 4   | Secondary | 01/06/2020  | 5                      |
| St Benet Biscop High School                        | 5   | Secondary | 01/06/2020  | 5                      |
| Ss Peter & Paul Primary School                     | 6   | Primary   | 01/06/2020  | 5                      |
| St. Cuthbert's Catholic High School, Newcastle     | 7   | Secondary | 01/12/2020  | 4                      |
| St Thomas More Catholic High School, North Shields | 8   | Secondary | 01/12/2020  | 4                      |
| Our Lady and St Anne's RC Primary School Newcastle | 9   | Primary   | 01/12/2020  | 4                      |
| St. Catherine's RC Primary School, Newcastle       | 10  | Primary   | 01/01/2021  | 4                      |
| St. Cuthbert's RC Primary School, Walbottle        | 11  | Primary   | 01/12/2020  | 4                      |
| St. Charles' RC Primary School, Gosforth           | 12  | Primary   | 01/04/2021  | 4                      |
| St. Lawrence's RC Primary School, Byker            | 13  | Primary   | 01/12/2020  | 4                      |
| St Wilfrid's RC Primary School, Blyth              | 14  | Primary   | 01/12/2020  | 4                      |
| St Bede's RC Primary School, Bedlington            | 15  | Primary   | 01/12/2020  | 4                      |
| St. Bede's RC Primary School, Newcastle            | 16  | Primary   | 01/04/2021  | 4                      |
| St Mark's RC Primary School, Westerhope            | 17  | Primary   | 01/04/2021  | 4                      |
| St. George's RC Primary School, Bells Close        | 18  | Primary   | 01/04/2021  | 4                      |
| English Martyrs' RC Primary School, Fenham         | 19  | Primary   | 01/04/2021  | 4                      |
| St. Alban's RC Primary School Newcastle            | 20  | Primary   | 01/04/2021  | 4                      |
| St Paul's RC Primary School, Alnwick               | 21  | Primary   | 01/04/2021  | 4                      |
| St Cuthbert's RC Primary School, North Shields     | 22  | Primary   | 01/08/2021  | 4                      |
| St Joseph's RC Primary School, North Shields       | 23  | Primary   | 01/08/2021  | 4                      |
| St Mary's RC Primary School, Cullercoats           | 24  | Primary   | 01/08/2021  | 4                      |
| Star of the Sea RC VA Primary, Whitley Bay         | 25  | Primary   | 01/08/2021  | 4                      |
| St Oswald's Catholic Primary School, Gosforth      | 26  | Primary   | 01/10/2021  | 3                      |
| St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Elswick       | 27  | Primary   | 01/10/2021  | 3                      |
| St Teresa's Catholic Primary School, Heaton        | 28  | Primary   | 01/10/2021  | 3                      |
| St Aidan's Catholic Primary School, Wallsend       | 29  | Primary   | 01/10/2021  | 3                      |
| St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School, Wallsend  | 30  | Primary   | 01/10/2021  | 3                      |
| St Columba's Catholic Primary School, Wallsend     | 31  | Primary   | 01/10/2021  | 3                      |

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

|  |    |         |            |   |
|--|----|---------|------------|---|
| St. Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, Kenton       | 32 | Primary | 01/04/2022 | 3 |
| St. John Vianney Catholic Primary School, Westerhope | 33 | Primary | 01/04/2022 | 3 |
| St Vincent's Catholic Primary School, Newcastle      | 34 | Primary | 01/04/2022 | 3 |
| St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Forest Hall       | 35 | Primary | 01/04/2022 | 3 |
| St Robert's Catholic First School, Morpeth           | 36 | First   | 01/04/2022 | 3 |
| St Cuthbert's Catholic First School, Bewick          | 37 | First   | 01/04/2022 | 3 |
| St Aidan's Catholic Primary, Ashington               | 38 | Primary | 01/04/2022 | 3 |
| St Stephen's Catholic Primary School, Newcastle      | 39 | Primary | 01/07/2022 | 3 |

### Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The Trust has a pay policy which has been adopted by the Board. There are two committees which have delegated authority to carry out the policy. They are the Standards & Intervention Committee and the Remuneration Committee. The Standards & Intervention Committee is responsible for the review of performance and pay for Headteachers advised by the Chief Executive. The Chief Executive is also responsible for appraisal and recommendation to the Standards Committee of pay awards of key management personnel within the Trust. The Chief Executive may delegate responsibility for all other staff appraisals but remains responsible for recommendations regarding pay progression. Headteachers are employed in accordance with the provisions of the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document (STP& CD). Senior support staff pay and conditions are in accordance with the National Joint Council for Local Government Services. Following a benchmarking exercise in 2020, carried out by HR company AVEC (now EPM Ltd.), of comparable national roles, the salary range of the Chief Executive was set by the Trustees of the Trust Board's Staffing Committee. Annual pay awards for the Chief Executive are agreed by a separate Remuneration Committee (membership from the Trust Board).

### Trade union facility time

#### Relevant union officials

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period | 2    |
| Full-time equivalent employee number   | 0.40 |

#### Percentage of time spent on facility time

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

#### Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Total cost of facility time                             | 27,100     |
| Total pay bill  | 82,240,000 |
| Percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time | <1%        |

#### Paid trade union activities

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours | 1% |
|---|----|

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

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

Further details are stated in note 29 to the Financial Statements.

The Trust and its schools work in direct partnership with Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle.

### **Streamlined energy and carbon reporting**

This content is included under that heading within the strategic report section.

### **Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)**

The Trust consults its staff through formal and informal methods including staff surveys, consultation committees and regular staff meetings. Staff are kept informed of specific policies directly by management. The Trust's website and SharePoint provides staff with access to Trust policies. The Trust consults with national trade union bodies through the Joint Consultative Committee (JCC). The Trust recognises the following Trade Unions for individual and collective representation, consultation, and negotiation purposes: NEU, NASUWT, NAHT, ASCL, GMB, UNISON and Unite. The Trust is committed to ensuring that existing members of staff, job applicants, and volunteers are treated fairly in an environment which is free from any form of discrimination and harassment with regard to the protected characteristics as outlined by the Equality Act 2010. The Trust's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy outlines the Trust's approach to this issue and specific reference is made within this guidance to job applicants. Applications from candidates with disabilities are welcomed. All staff, when they have been appointed, are asked to undertake a medical placement questionnaire. This process provides information to the employer, which can be discussed with the employer where an employee has a disability for which a reasonable adjustment is required. Equalities data is collected with respect to Teacher Pay Progression in order to identify whether or not the data indicates that employees with protected characteristics are disadvantaged.

### **Engagement with suppliers, customers and others in a business relationship with the Trust**

The Trust seeks to engage actively and positively with all stakeholders in the local community and in the wider educational landscape. Collaborative relationships with suppliers, parents, educational partners and community leaders are seen as key enablers to achieving success in all of the Trust's operations. During the year the Trust has further promoted this engagement through specific initiatives including:

- Regular communication and engagement with prospective and current parents of pupils attending the Trust's schools to enhance the understanding of the provision to each student, and to fully coordinate support to students by the school.
- Promoting and encouraging student opportunities to engage in local voluntary and other projects to support the community.
- Engagement with other educational Trust's and partners at local and national levels to share best practice and to provide peer support across Trust's and Individual schools.
- Active dialogue with our 3 Local Authorities on matters which impact children and families in the community as well as relate to operation of each school.
- Engaging with local businesses and colleges to promote career and educational opportunities for students for mutual benefit.
- Seeking all possible opportunities to engage with local suppliers in each academy area.
- Seeking regular communication with all suppliers and ensuring good commercial practices of prompt payment and clear communication to optimise arrangements for supply of goods and services to each school.

Our relationships with partners and suppliers are key to our effectiveness. The Trust actively seeks to engage in service reviews with all key suppliers. These reviews are focused on a two-way relationship with the Trust based with an aim of helping one another to achieve an optimum service as efficiently as possible and according to the best value for money. Where the Trust has procured outsourced services, we seek to ensure that staff and management from that contractor are supported as an equal member of the school community and stakeholders.



# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

#### Objects and aims

The Trust's objects ("the Objects") are specifically restricted to the advancement of the Catholic religion in the Diocese by such means as the Diocesan Bishop may think fit and proper by, but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing the establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing of Catholic schools in the United Kingdom conducted in accordance with the principles, and subject to the regulations and discipline of the Catholic Church.

Subject to the approval of the Diocesan Bishop, during the period that the objects are being fulfilled and form the majority of the activities of the Trust, the advancement of education by the establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing of schools which are not Catholic in the United Kingdom.

At the heart of our Catholic Trust is the belief that **'A great education has the power to transform lives'**. The Trust's five Goals (Aims), rooted in Gospel values (Matthew 5: 1-12), provide a set of expectations and aspirations for the Trustees, leaders, staff and students of our schools. BBCET's five goals are:

| 5 Goals                            |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Love<br>(thy neighbour as thyself) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Everyone feels part of a wider Trust, not just their individual school</li><li>• All staff care about the other schools in the Trust, they want them to succeed</li></ul>  |
| Opportunity                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Our staff are aspirational for all students, regardless of their background</li><li>• They are pioneers who embrace wider horizons</li><li>• All our students have high aspirations for their futures, know what they need to do and achieve the necessary qualifications</li><li>• Our students leave us for high tariff destinations</li><li>• Many students across our schools achieve places at Oxford and Cambridge and other top-quality universities: this is equally true for disadvantaged students</li></ul> |
| Collaboration                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Schools willingly share their expertise and areas of strength</li><li>• Schools willingly share resources for the good of others</li><li>• Schools are open about where they need support</li><li>• Schools are open to both give and receive support</li><li>• There is no rivalry between our schools, we take pride in everyone's success</li></ul>   |
| Development                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Staff remain within our Trust and see their future with us</li><li>• We build strong capacity across schools for leadership and other key roles</li><li>• Staff are happy</li><li>• Parents feel involved and listened to</li><li>• All levels of governance are supported and developed</li></ul>   |
| Aspiration                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All schools offer high quality, broad curriculums and wider curriculum provision to students</li><li>• All students can find something at their school to help them develop their unique talents</li><li>• Our students demonstrate faith in action. They are involved in their wider community, support charitable works and demonstrate good manners, respect and kindness towards all</li></ul>   |

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

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### **Objectives, strategies and activities**

In 2024-25 the Trust's Directors and Executive Leadership team have continued to focus heavily on reducing the attainment gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils. The Trust recognises the enormous socio-economic challenges some of our schools' leaders face. Significant investment, especially in Primary schools has targeted the key areas of leadership development, school improvement, Special Educational Needs, literacy, and Early Years provision. In addition, there has been substantial investment across both Secondary and Primary in our schools' estate, IT infrastructure, catering provision, procurement practices and Health & Safety.

The relentless focus school improvement across the Trust has continued to lift the quality of provision in all settings. The Trust had 12 Ofsted inspections in AY 2024-25 (1 Secondary, 11 Primary). Once again, HMI & Ofsted inspectors in noted the role of the Trust and its school leaders in the improvements seen within schools since the last inspection. Reports often referred to the positive impact of the Trust. Reports often referred to the positive impact the Trust. Trust-wide staff deployments, including the use of Executive Heads, remain essential in achieving rapid school improvement. Ofsted inspectors frequently note the Trust's high expectations in their feedback and the co-operative model and cross-school time and staff investment. In particular, the St Catherine's Primary School inspection (June 2025) noted "The trust supports and checks on the work of the school well. Leaders at all levels are reflective and clear in their drive for improvement". Whilst the school improvement work is far from over, all Primary schools inspected were graded Good or remained Good (Under 'No Judgement'). Sacred Heart High School's Section 5 rated it Outstanding in all 4 areas under the new framework. These Ofsted judgements are a strong indicator as to the strength of the education on offer across all our schools.

The Trust continues to make significant investment in its SEND central services. The appointment of a Trust-wide SEND Lead was further strengthened in the autumn of 2023 with the addition of a part-time seconded SENDCO. This has increased to 2 additional part time Lead SENCOs who are employed in our schools. One leads on the Primary phase and one on the Secondary. This equates to 2 days per week. They are taking specific areas of responsibility within the Trust central offer. The Trust has continued its investment in the experienced NHS team of Speech & Language development specialists and recognises further investment will be needed to meet the very growing needs of pupils in this vital developmental stage. In addition to staffing resources, the Trust's 'Additional Resourced Provision' (ARP) at English Martyrs Primary School, Newcastle is providing a vital resource for children in the city.

In addition to the increased SEND provision, the Trust continues to deploy its Primary school improvement team (Directors of Primary Support). These 'DoPs' are Headteachers from across our schools, bringing their expertise, and often wider team, to strengthen the schools they support. The Trust believes secondments are the most impactful and cost-effective school improvement model, keeping leadership expertise in our schools up to date with the latest thinking and ensuring this is relatable to other school leaders. The Trust believes secondments are the most impactful and cost-effective school improvement model, keeping leadership expertise in our schools, up to date with the latest thinking and relatable to other school leaders.

With 39 Local Governing Committees (LGCs), one of the key activities for the Trust's Executive Leadership team has been to review governance. During AY 2024-25 the Trust's Head of Governance recruited in-house governance partners ready to provide our LGCs with support and clerking from September 2025. The new team will allow for more consistency and quality of LGC meetings, bespoke training to their governors and greater oversight of key areas such as Safeguarding, Risk Management and Health & Safety. The intention is to ensure that our governance processes create a pyramid of information and questions flowing from each school's LGC to the Trust Board and Executive team. In part, ensuring that this information provides a focused, aggregated risk register for Trustees.

To match the scale and demand for Trust-wide CPD, the Trust has moved away from a single co-ordinator post holder, to a shared responsibility to provide and coordinate CPD between two High school Headteachers and the Director of Primary Standards. This new approach is part of a wider Trust people strategy, ensuring we have the staff and skill/knowledge levels required across all settings. This approach to CPD includes offering a specific Catholic leadership focus, to help meet the future demand for Catholic school leaders.

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

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Retention, and as needed, recruitment of high-quality staff remains a top priority. Although education funding has been cut, it is still vital that we attract the best staff into the organisation. Consequently, in 2025 we launched our online eTeach portal and reviewed our recruitment processes. Induction and CPD remain areas we believe are key to rapid improvement. Our leadership development programmes and School Centred Initial Teacher Training programme (SCITT) are both important ways in which we attract high-quality staff. Recruitment into the education sector remains an issue, however, our SCITT has an excellent reputation for both Primary and Secondary training and saw numbers more than double in 2024-25 to 50 plus trainees. BBCET is passionate about the professional development of all our staff and continue to invest heavily in a range of areas including the apprenticeship programme and 'Living Leader' (a development programme for leaders at all levels). In getting the right people into our Trust and retaining them, we know we can affect the greatest impact on the children in our care. We believe that our personalised, largely in-house, approach to CPD provides excellent value for money and allows many more staff to have professional development that would otherwise be possible.

The Trust is committed to being environmentally responsible. To this end, Trustees approved the use of SCA monies to ensure schools are fit for purpose and environmentally sound (further details in section of financial review and energy carbon). In 2024-25 capital investment and SCA monies were used to deliver major building projects where a lack of capacity or practicability demanded significant change. The most urgent developments needed were at St Cuthbert's High School's, where footfall pressure demanded an expansion of dining room space (and associated corridor/flow enhancements) and St Benet's High School where poor current provision in an ageing English block, outdated toilets and lack of space demanded a new 6th Form building and site-wide investment. These two significant developments have improved the capacity, practicality and environmental sustainability of both sites. Several other Primary schools have also had site-wide investments, making them safer, more attractive and in turn, creating a better working/learning environment for staff and pupils.

### **Public benefit**

The Trust's aims and achievements are set out within this report. The activities set out in this report have been undertaken to further the academy's charitable purposes for the public benefit. In setting their objectives and planning activities the Trustees have complied with the duty set out in the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

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### STRATEGIC REPORT

#### Achievements and performance

The Trustees monitor the performance of our schools through a range of national and Trust level metrics. In addition to the Trust, Local Governing Committees also monitor achievement at school level. The Trust's educational outcomes (public examination measures) are considered the Trust KPIs.

#### Promoting the success of the charitable company

The Trust, as one of the four Trusts in the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, is working hard to ensure it remains in a strong position through its own operating scale, and that of scale and shared expertise of the four Trusts. By virtue of the size of the Trust, with careful financial planning and clear leadership the success of each individual school is ensured.

#### Initial Teacher Training

Sacred Heart High School's SCITT achieved re-accreditation in 2023 and a successful Ofsted in March 2024. Nationally and regionally ITT recruitment remains significantly down on pre-pandemic numbers. The SCITT's set a recruitment target of 50 for the 2024-25 cohort. In the context of a very poor national picture, and with no change to the trainee bursaries on offer, it was pleasing to see 40 trainees (38 secondary, 2 Primary) begin the course in September 2024. In a positive trend, 53 trainees started in September 2025. It was particularly reassuring to see the Primary cohort at an all-time high of 11 trainees. The majority of SCITT trainees are always likely to be in the Secondary phase (where there are some subject bursaries). However, the Trust is keen to expand its ITT Primary provision and is actively marketing. It's hoped the DfE will return to Primary bursaries in the future.

#### The likely consequences of any decision in the long term

The Trust completed its growth strategy as planned. Now at 39 schools, the Trust has consolidated its position. We continue to explore options through procurement, shared expertise and innovation. At this point, there are currently no plans at Diocesan or Trust level for any further growth. The Trust continues to follow all DfE guidance to ensure compliance and security of the Trust and its schools.

#### The Impact of the company's operations on the community and the environment

We recognise our responsibility to care for the environment and aim to minimise our environmental impact in all our activities. As well as covering environmental issues in our school curriculum, the Trust encourages all staff and students to participate in initiatives to reduce negative environmental impacts. These include the promotion of recycling of waste, procurement of energy efficient items and appropriate actions by all staff and students (paperless where possible, lower room temperatures, cycle to work schemes etc) to minimise energy consumption and reduce non-recyclable waste.

The impact of the company's operations on employees and business relationships is included within the Trustees report on page 7.

#### The desirability of the company maintaining a reputation for high standards of business conduct

Public trust in the Trust and its constituent schools is fundamental to our future success. The Trust adheres to the Nolan Principles (2017) and has embedded the 'The Seven Principles of Public Life' into its vision document, adopted across the Trust - 'What makes an excellent Catholic school'. Central in our recruitment, training and appraisal at all levels are our organisational values and behaviours, used to ensure that we maintain the highest ethical standards for current and future employees. Our procurement processes and use of supplier policies ensure that our Trust's values are a key part of our selection process. We pay due regard to the behaviours of our suppliers in our supply chain.

#### The need to act fairly as between members of the company

In terms of members of the Trust, fairness in our dealings is upheld through having a clear and well communicated strategy, and financial discipline backed by strong internal controls. We have transparent reporting at regular intervals through the year, continual access to senior management and a track record of successful growth through new school joiners which have been appropriately integrated into the Trust. We aim to be a fully inclusive organisation and we will not unfairly discriminate against our students, staff or any other member of our community and stakeholders. Our policies and actions are rooted in the Equality Act 2010.

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

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### Financial review

The majority of the Trust's income is obtained from the DfE in which our schools are located in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted. The grants received from the DfE during the year ended 31 August 2025 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Trust also receives grants for fixed assets from the Department for Education. In accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (SORP 2019), such grants are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the fixed asset fund. The restricted fixed asset fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets concerned .

Total income for the year was £111,752k (2024: £104,893k) which is after transfers from local authority on conversion of £nil (2024: £nil) and transfers of existing academies into the trust of £nil (2024: £nil).

The Trust received capital funding in the year totalling £3,369k (2024: £2,718k).

The surplus of £405k (2024: deficit £3,300k) is after transfers amounting to £3,942k (2024: £787k) and an impairment charge of £nil (2024: £2,505k) against the land and buildings following a review of the valuation held. (impairment in previous years reflects schools affected by reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC).

The restricted general fund as reported in note 22 excluding pension liability is £10,607k (2024: £15,535k) and the unrestricted fund balance is £3,454k (2024: £2,238k) as at 31 August 2025 giving a total reserve balance before fixed assets fund and pension reserve of £14,061k (2024: £17,773k).

No schools joined the Trust during the year.

The net book value of tangible and intangible fixed assets at 31 August 2025 was £95,207k (2024: £91,090k). Movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 14 to the accounts. The restricted fixed asset fund is then reduced by annual depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets concerned. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and associated support services to academy students.

The balance in the LGPS pension funds is recognised on the balance sheet in accordance with the provisions of FRS102. The total surplus in the scheme as 31 August 2025 was £15,296k (2024: surplus of £3,847k). This surplus has been restricted to £nil in the current year with the restriction being included in other comprehensive income. Movements in the pension fund are reported in note 28 of the Financial Statements. The pension liability is underwritten by the Government if settlement was ever required.

The balance sheet discloses cash and bank balances of £8,528k (2024: £7,639k).

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### Key performance indicators

The monthly management accounts are prepared and reviewed in PSF, the accounting system. The Year-to-date figures are imported into IMP planning software at month end. Monthly salary reconciliations and budget forecast monitoring is undertaken in IMP and discussed with each individual school Headteacher.

| Trust's financial key performance indicators include:                    | Forecast 2026           | 2025     | 2024                    | 2023     |
|--|-------------------------|----------|-------------------------|----------|
| Free reserves  | £9.016M                 | £14.400M | £18.839M                | £19.369M |
| Staff costs as a percentage of income (excluding transfer on conversion) | 79%                     | 77%      | 72%                     | 72%      |
| Pupil teacher ratios   | 18.2                    | 18.1     | School by school detail |          |
| Pupil adult ratios   | 10.4                    | 10.5     |                         |          |
| Individual cost streams per pupil e.g. ICT/pupil                         | School by school detail |          |                         |          |

Free reserves of £9.016m for 2026 is made up of unrestricted and restricted income funds (not restricted fixed asset funds) and would mean this measure is in line with the target level in the Reserves Policy.

Its useful to keep track of staff costs as a percentage of income as it can be benchmarked against other MATs and also indicates where savings need to come from if we need to balance the budget through cost saving (and not income increases). This figure has increased in recent years due to falling pupil numbers (and hence income) whilst staff numbers have been broadly static. The increase in this percentage is also seen as in MATs a whole across the country. Whilst useful to track and understand, we haven't expressed a target for this measure in our reserves policy as the measure is subject to change depending upon outsourced/inhouse operations such as cleaning, caretaking, ICT, school improvement and catering.

Further detailed benchmarking is conducted during the year with each school's Headteacher and shared with the Trust's Finance and Resources committee, taking reference from available national data and measures including 'View my financial insights', the 'Schools financial benchmarking' website and those used in Integrated Curriculum and Financial Planning (ICFP).

The Trustees have considered the Trust's financial performance set for the year and consider the performance to be satisfactory.

### Going concern

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

### Financial and risk management objectives and policies

Financial policies operate throughout the Trust, primarily the Financial Regulations manual and Scheme of Delegation which outline the roles and responsibilities of Trustees, Governors, Headteachers and all other staff in the use of the Trust's resources. The nature of academy business is that the financial instruments that are dealt with are largely bank balances, cash, creditors and debtors. The Trust considers its exposure to financial instruments to be minimal and such information is not material to an assessment of the Trust's assets, liabilities, financial position, and its results. The Trust is however exposed to the LGPS pension schemes as outlined in note 28 where there is detailed disclosure of the current position as independently actuarially assessed. Additional liabilities associated with those academies with PFI buildings are outlined in note 24.

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### Reserves policy

In March 2024 the Trustees reviewed and approved their Reserves Policy which recognises the BBCET reserves as being made up of 3 elements. These are shown in the table below alongside the Board's target level for each category:

| Reserve category |   | Target level   |
|------------------|---|--|
| A                | Individual school balances                      | 5-8% of incoming resources   |
| B(i)             | Centrally held uncommitted, or "free", reserves | Minimum 1% of total BBCET annual turnover (approx. £1M) but always sufficient to ensure A+B(i) is at least 8% of total incoming resources. |
| B(ii)            | Centrally held "Strategic reserves"             | Agreed annually as part of the budget setting process and set as required.   |

Individual school budgets or forecasts which show a position outside of this range of 5-8% are subject to greater scrutiny by the Board and Trust officers. At 31st August 2025 the revenue reserves across the Trust were £14,061k (2024: £17,773k) against a target of £7,750k (2024: £7,750k). As part of budget setting, the Trustees review the level of reserves each year. This review considers the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the need to set aside funds for future replacement programmes. The Trust Board also considers what reserves need to be set aside in view of the growth in net liabilities under its pension schemes.

Trust reserve balances are currently in excess of the minimum level defined by the Trust, but lower than what would be defined as excessive by the Department for Education (which is 20% of income).

The Trust recognise the need to ensure reserves do not become excessive especially where this would be at this cost of unnecessarily denying opportunity or support to children who are in education today. BBCET schools and the Trust all plan over a longer term horizon and currently there has been a planned reduction in reserves over the period to 2026 that brings overall figures in line with the target level in the Reserves Policy. This planned reduction is in part expected as schools use their balances for capital investment to maintain and develop their buildings. Balances are also expected to fall as schools use their balances to absorb pay and price cost pressures, meet the increased demand for services (e.g. SEND) and accommodate a reduction in pupil numbers mirroring local demographics. In 2025-26 most schools have agreed in year deficit budget plans as they take a calm and considered response to how they will manage these financial pressures within their budget in the longer term. The Board and key management have established a Financial sustainability plan and are working with all schools to ensure they are supported in setting balanced budgets (without drawing further upon reserves) from 2026/27 onwards.

Academy trust funds that can only be realised by disposing of tangible fixed assets were £96,475k (2024: £92,358k).

The academy trust's share of the Local Government Pension Scheme currently has a surplus of £15,296k (2024: surplus of £3,847k). This surplus has been restricted in the year to £Nil with the restriction charged to other comprehensive income. Under the Charities SORP any projected deficits on the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), which is provided to support staff, are required to be charged to a restricted fund. This results in reducing reserves shown in the total funds of the academy trust (although it should be noted that a deficit of this nature does not present the academy trust with any current liquidity problem as the repayment of this deficit is addressed through changes in future employer contribution rates, changes in stock market values or changes in actuarial calculations). This has been the position in recent years for the Trust until this year, when the scheme balance has moved into overall surplus. Although now in surplus, a surplus balance is not shown on the balance sheet as it is not something the Trust can access or draw down.

### Investment policy

The Trust operates a very risk averse policy to treasury management. All funds are currently invested with Lloyds Bank in a mixture of 32-day notice account and fixed term deposits. The 32-day notice account attracts a variable interest driven by the current bank base-rate. Interest rates are reviewed across a number of banks to ensure the Trust is getting the best return on the balances we hold. This policy maximises investment return whilst minimising risks to the principal sum. The Trust has an ethical approach to investment and acts accordingly.

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### Key performance indicators

#### Educational Outcomes Summer 2025 (Key Performance Indicators)

A summary of the Trust's educational outcomes (Considered to be the Trust KPIs) are shown in the tables overleaf and split between secondary and primary schools. Please note, all examination data for summer 2025 (inc. National figures where they are quoted) remain unvalidated until the January 2026 checking exercise is complete and data is published by DfE.

#### Secondary schools

The Trust's Secondary GCSE examination data is shown on the next page. The table shows aggregated GCSE outcomes since 2019. Please note that the COVID-19 years (2020 & 2021) and 2022 are nationally recognised as inflated pupil outcome years. In summer 2023, Ofqual returned GCSE results to the pattern of 'near normal' (2019 grade boundaries). For socio-economic reasons, comparisons of academic outcomes across our 5 secondary schools are inappropriate. However, aggregate results within the five schools showed a positive trend in Maths and Maths & English at grade 5+. At school level, there were notable improvements in GCSE grades at St Cuthbert's High School (a previously 'supported' school within the Trust). The absence of Progress scores makes it very difficult to draw conclusions on the outcomes for students. This will remain an issue in 2026 too (these two cohorts have no KS2 data). The Trust recognises that GCSE Maths continue to be below expected outcomes in two of the five schools. Targeted support will continue for these key departments. Overall, attainment measures (aside from A8) were all better than the pre-pandemic benchmark of 2019.

#### Primary schools

The Trust has 32 primary & 2 First schools. Reading outcomes continue to be significantly above the national average. The Trust average has dropped by 2% but remains significantly above the national average. Writing outcomes remain above the national average. However, there has been a 3% decline over the last 2 years. Nationally, Writing has also stalled. A new Primary Writing Framework was published on 8th July to be reviewed and implemented in schools. Maths outcomes dropped by 2% and is now close to the national average. The proportion of pupils attaining the expected standard in Reading increased by 2%, and fell by 2% in Writing and Maths. The overall combined figure dropped by 2% and is on a downward trend.

#### Key Stage 4 GCSE Outcomes - Trust weighted aggregate

| All Students         | Change on prior year | 2025          | 2024 | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 (TAGS) | 2020 (CAGS) | 2019 |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------------|------|------|------|-------------|-------------|------|
| A8 (Point score)     | ↓                    | 5.0           | 5.1  | 5.0  | 5.5  | 5.6         | 5.6         | 5.3  |
| P8 (Point Score)     | N/A                  | Not published | 0.2  | 0.03 | 0.28 | 0.16        | 0.35        | 0.45 |
| En 4+ (%)            | ↓                    | 80.4          | 84   | 77   | 85   | 87          | 82          | 78   |
| Ma 4+ (%)            | ↓                    | 75.3          | 76   | 76   | 81   | 83          | 83          | 71   |
| E&M 4+ (%)           | ↓                    | 70.6          | 72   | 71   | 78   | 81          | 83          | 69   |
| En 5+ (%)            | ↓                    | 66.5          | 69   | 61   | 71   | 69          | 68          | 62   |
| Ma 5+ (%)            | ↑                    | 55.6          | 53   | 54   | 62   | 63          | 50          | 43   |
| E&M 5+ (%)           | ↑                    | 50            | 49   | 48   | 58   | 58          | 48          | 42   |
| EBacc 4+ (% of Yr11) | ↓                    | 30            | 31   | 33   | 39   | 41          | 45          | 29   |
| EBacc 5+ (% of Yr11) | ↔                    | 22            | 22   | 23   | 30   | 30          | 31          | 20   |

Source: FFT

NB: Results for both 2020 (CAGS) and 2021 (TAGS) were based on grades awarded without formal external national examinations. National grade boundaries in 2022 were set to 'cushion' a return to pre-pandemic outcomes.



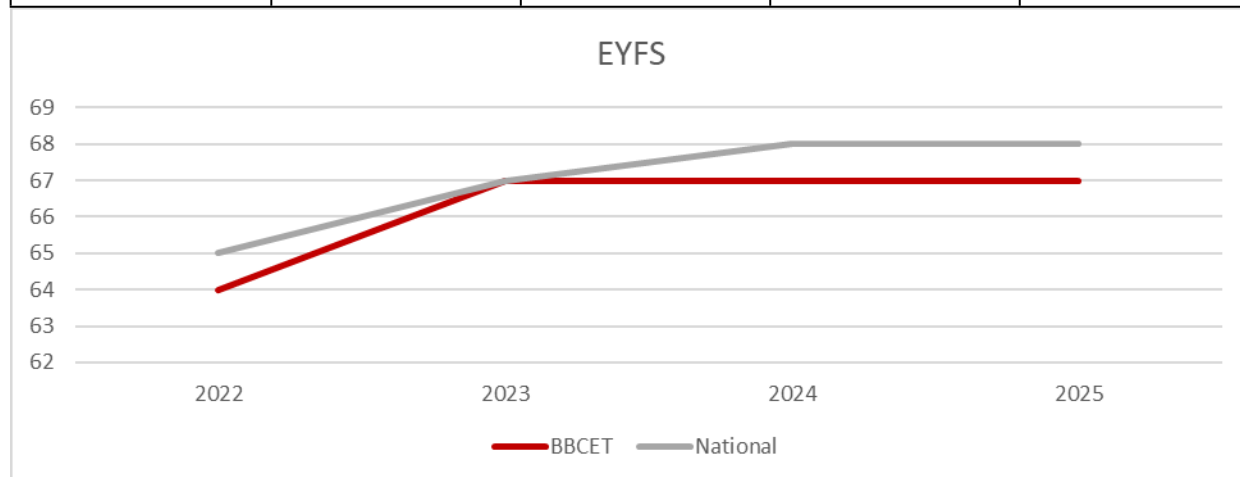
# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### Primary Data 2025

#### EYFS

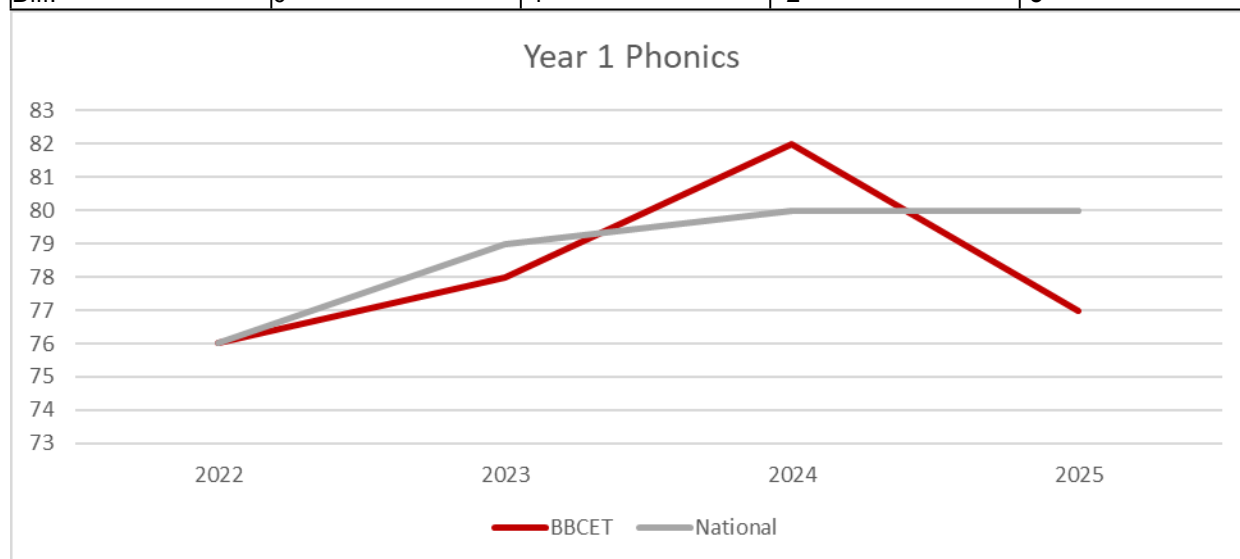
|          | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|----------|------|------|------|------|
| BBCET    | 64   | 67   | 67   | 67   |
| National | 65   | 67   | 68   | 68   |
|          | -1   | 0    | -1   | -1   |



EYFS outcomes remain static at 67% compared to a national figure of 68%. Further analysis of attainment across the Early Learning Goals (ELGs) is a focus for headteachers in 2025/26.

#### Year 1 Phonics

|          | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|----------|------|------|------|------|
| BBCET    | 76   | 78   | 82   | 77   |
| National | 76   | 79   | 80   | 80   |
| Diff.    | 0    | -1   | +2   | -3   |



Phonics outcomes have fallen below national average. This was in line with school predictions. The Trust is currently evaluating an option to move to a single phonics package to support improvement.

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### Key Stage 2 SATs Outcomes - Trust weighted aggregate

| All Students         | Change on prior year | 2025 | 2024 | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 (TAGs) | 2020 (CA) |
|----------------------|----------------------|------|------|------|------|-------------|-----------|
| <b>Expected</b>      |                      |      |      |      |      |             |           |
| Reading %            | ↓                    | 79.4 | 80   | 79   | 75   | 85          | 7         |
| Writing %            | ↓                    | 75.1 | 77   | 73   | 67   | 85          | 8         |
| Mathematics %        | ↓                    | 76.5 | 81   | 75   | 68   | 82          | 8         |
| Combined %           | ↓                    | 63.6 | 67   | 63   | 61   | 74          | 7         |
| <b>Greater Depth</b> |                      |      |      |      |      |             |           |
| Reading %            | ↑                    | 33.4 | 32   | 31   | 38   | 28          | 3         |
| Writing %            | ↓                    | 16.1 | 19   | 16   | 25   | 26          | 2         |
| Mathematics %        | ↑                    | 26   | 25   | 23   | 23   | 36          | 3         |

NB: KS2 Results for both 2020 'GAGS' and 2021 'TAGS' were based on awarding grades without examinations. Data includes schools that were part of the Trust before the final census date in each Academic year. In 2021 the submission of data by schools was voluntary and so this represents a partial data set. There are no progress measures from KS1 for the 2024 Year 6 cohort, so this aspect, published in previous years, has been dropped from this report.

### Ofsted Inspections - Summary of BBCET Ofsted grades as of 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2025:

| Grade                | No. | %  |
|----------------------|-----|----|
| Outstanding          | 3   | 8% |
| Good                 | 34  | 87 |
| Requires Improvement | 2   | 5  |
| Inadequate           | 0   | 0  |

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### Inspections: Sept 2024 - July 2025

The Trust had 12 school Ofsted inspection visits in the period 1st September 2024 - 31st August 2025.

| School Name  | Inspection Date | Overall Effectiveness | Quality of Education | Behaviour and Attitudes | Personal Development | Effectiveness of Leadership and Management |
|--|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--|
| St Catherine's Catholic Primary School               | 2025-06-03      | -                     | Good                 | Good                    | Good                 | Good                                       |
| St Cuthberts Catholic Primary School, Berwick        | 2025-05-20      | Good                  | No judgement         | No judgement            | No judgement         | Good                                       |
| St Columba's Catholic Primary School, Wallsend       | 2025-04-30      | Good                  | No judgement         | No judgement            | No judgement         | Good                                       |
| St Roberts Catholic First School, Morpeth            | 2025-03-26      | Good                  | No judgement         | No judgement            | No judgement         | Good                                       |
| St Marys Catholic Primary School, Forest Hall        | 2025-03-19      | Good                  | No judgement         | No judgement            | No judgement         | Good                                       |
| St Mary's Catholic Primary School, North Shields     | 2025-03-05      | Good                  | Good                 | Good                    | Good                 | Good                                       |
| St Cuthberts Catholic Primary School, Kenton         | 2025-02-19      | Good                  | No judgement         | No judgement            | No judgement         | Outstanding                                |
| St Aidan's Catholic Primary School, Ashington        | 2025-01-22      | Good                  | Good                 | Good                    | Good                 | Good                                       |
| St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, North Shields | 2025-01-08      | Good                  | No judgement         | No judgement            | No judgement         | Good                                       |
| St Stephen's Catholic Primary School, Newcastle      | 2024-12-11      | Good                  | No judgement         | No judgement            | No judgement         | Good                                       |
| Sacred Heart Catholic High School                    | 2024-12-03      | -                     | Outstanding          | Outstanding             | Outstanding          | Outstanding                                |
| St Aidan's Catholic Primary School, Wallsend         | 2024-10-23      | Good                  | No judgement         | No judgement            | No judgement         | Good                                       |

**Initial Teacher Training (Ofsted)** - Sacred Heart Newcastle SCITT remains 'Good' grade in all 3 inspection focus areas

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

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### Plans for future periods

In 2025-26 the Trust will focus on the following key areas as set out in the Trust Development plan:

#### Ensuring the best start

A1 - Develop great practice in developing early language/communication both in primary and secondary settings

A2 - Provide extensive support for parents/carers in primary

A3 - Work closely with other professionals to combat the effects of poverty on the lives of our children

#### School Improvement

B1 - Develop common conceptual frameworks in priority areas

B2 - Embed existing frameworks across all schools

B3 - Develop a Trust wide Belonging strategy

B4 - Prepare schools effectively for the new Ofsted framework (Inc. SEND accountability frameworks as identified in government guidance (expected Autumn 2025))

B5 - Where schools have students with high levels of SEN, they have 'Enhanced Provisions' which support progress from starting points.

B6 - Work with Kenton School on RISE programme.

#### Communication and Information

C1 - Effective communication and information across all schools and stakeholders

C2 - Embed Arbor MIS

C3 - Governance: improve clarity across Trust and LGCs

C4 - Communicate more effectively with parents, staff and pupils to showcase the work of the Trust

#### Unlocking Potential Leadership Development

D1 - Support current leaders in their roles

D2 - Develop future leaders to ensure a good, steady flow of confident colleagues who are ready for the next step in their careers

D3 - Extend LL to more student groups, via FLP and curriculum offer, introducing them to the power of leading well.

#### Finance and Estates

E1 - Ensure both RAAC schools have excellent new buildings

E2 - Work with leaders to ensure we are preparing effectively for the uncertain financial landscape for schools

#### Catholic Distinctiveness

F1 - Ensure that the work of Bishop Bewick CET contributes to the mission of the Catholic Church and our Diocese vision.

In seeking to achieving the aims above, the Trust will:

- Allocate additional leadership capacity for Secondary school improvement.
- Continue to develop outstanding curriculums across all phases (Curriculum leaders working as one).
- Continue to work with all schools to maximise achievement and increase Trust opportunities for pupils to showcase their talents (e.g. Music, Performing Arts and Sports events).
- Embed the new Arbor Management Information System across all schools.
- Continue the final 8 months of the 3-year Microsoft SharePoint/Office 365 roll out.
- Continue to develop our people strategy, ensuring we have the staff we need at all levels, including a specific Catholic leadership focus.
- Use of SCA monies and other DfE capital grants to ensure our schools are modern, safe, sustainable, with a focus on improving Early Years provision/play areas and SEND areas in any setting where this has not been addressed in the previous two years.
- Work with DfE and school leaders to develop the plans for the two new building required to replace the RAAC schools at St Columba's and St John Vianney.
- Increase funding to ensure a clear focus on Early Years education including work around speech and language screening and support; reading development; reading for pleasure; upskilling parents to read with their children.
- Support the development of spaces within schools, when necessary, to meet the special educational needs of increasingly complex cohorts of students. Notably, this applies to those who experience challenges when managing the sensory environment of school classrooms. Support for projects within schools will be prioritised on the basis of individual school cohorts, any existing provision and how fit it is for purpose.
- In secondary schools, using top performing subject departments in English, Maths and MFL to act as incubator hubs to support other schools and embed best practice.

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

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### Principal risks and uncertainties

Over the last few years one of the principal risks and uncertainties for our Trust was related to the rapid growth of Trust during 2020 to 2022. As schools joined the Trust they needed to change some of their back office systems to those of the Trust, but also a period of both the Trust and individual schools getting to understand each other. As we have not added any additional schools since August 2022 the risk associated with growth has diminished as systems and processes across the trust schools have become embedded. We do not anticipate any further growth in the number of schools in our Trust.

During 2024-25 the Trust changed its risk management software from the RSM ('4Risk') system to an inhouse system that allows a more bespoke solution at better value for money. This facilitates a school specific risk register per school alongside an overarching Trust Strategic risk register. Both elements are considered together by the Board. Using this approach the main areas of uncertainty and risk the Trust continues to manage relate to:

- Operating within funding levels over the longer term, given changes in demographics in the region, the short term nature of national funding announcements and pressure on Special Educational needs budgets.
- Continuing to ensure the quality of teaching and learning across our schools remains excellent and ensuring we are able to demonstrate this to other stakeholders (including parents and Ofsted).
- Ensuring Health & Safety compliance. The Trust continues to use an independent professional company for their Health and Safety advice and use the same software to monitor their planned health and safety compliance tasks. We continue to promote the importance of adherence to legislative requirements and indeed best practice with our schools, supporting schools practically when needed.
- With over 70% of costs relating to employees, we continue to explore ways improving our approach to recruitment, retention and training. The Trust continues to develop its People Strategy. In addition to contracting with a provider of Wellbeing services for use by all staff in our Trust, we have explored other employee benefits. The Trust continues to investment time and training into core groups across schools such as Teaching Assistants and School Business Managers.
- We continue to prioritise the effective safeguarding of all learners across our schools. Measures during 2024/25 have included annual training for all staff on Child Protection & safeguarding training as specified in the updated.
- Ensuring all school infrastructure is fit for purpose, including that at the two of our schools affected by reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC). We continue to work with the DfE's School Rebuilding Programme to rebuild the two RAAC affected schools. In the short term both schools continue to operate from the prefabricated modular buildings provided by the DfE in summer 2024.

In common with other Trusts, the Trust continues to have in place appropriate insurance cover.

The Trust has an effective system of internal financial controls and this is explained in more detail In the Governance Statement.

### Fundraising

The Trust does not currently work with commercial participators or professional fundraisers and does not engage third parties to undertake fundraising activities on its behalf. Should individuals wish to complain about any fundraising activities conducted by the Trust, they should follow the complaints or whistleblowing policy as appropriate.

### Streamlined energy and carbon reporting

#### Environmental measures

The Trust and its schools are committed to reducing their Impact on the environment. We educate staff & students and collectively act as organisation on areas in which we feel changes in behaviour and/or our practices can positively reduce our carbon footprint and other environmental measures. In recent years we have invested heavily to ensure all 39 of our schools fully have LED lights and double glazing.

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

| UK Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data for the period | 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 | 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 |
|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh)           | 15,531,063                         | 16,231,969                         |
| Energy consumption breakdown (kWh)                             |                                    |                                    |
| <i>Scope 1 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e</i>                 |                                    |                                    |
| - Gas consumption  | 2,044.00                           | 2,197.00                           |
| - Owned transport  | 30.21                              | 35.06                              |
| <i>Total Scope 1</i>   | 2,074.21                           | 2,232.06                           |
| <i>Scope 2 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e</i>                 |                                    |                                    |
| - Purchased electricity  | 772.00                             | 1,371.00                           |
| <i>Scope 3 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e</i>                 |                                    |                                    |
| - Business travel in employee owned vehicles                   | 5.02                               | 5.16                               |
| Total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO2e                    | 2,851.23                           | 3,608.22                           |
| <i>Intensity ratio</i>   |                                    |                                    |
| Tonnes CO2e per pupil  | 0.20                               | 0.27                               |

### Quantification and reporting methodology

We have followed the 2019 HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines. We have also used the GHG Reporting Protocol – Corporate Standard and have used the 2025 UK Government's Conversion Factors for Company Reporting.

### Intensity measurement

The chosen intensity measurement ratio is total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO2e per pupil, the recommended ratio for the sector.

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

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### *Measures taken to improve energy efficiency*

The Trust recognises its role and that of its schools in terms of impact on the environment, be this as an employer or educator; as a critical service provider; as a consumer; as an investor; as a partner; as part of the supply chain; and within communities. In line with government and community expectations, year on year, the Trust aims to improve its energy efficiency and reduce CO2 consumption across its estate. The Trust's Energy Sustainability Strategy was originally discussed and ratified by Trustees in Autumn 2022 and is reviewed annually. This sets the overarching approach the Trust takes to become more aware of its energy consumption and reduce its use. In addition to Trust wide initiatives, central to the policy is the requirement for individual schools to play their part in Identifying and enacting change in the practice wherever possible.

Sustainability is embedded at all levels and in the forefront of thinking for all policies and projects and consequently at the heart of all decision making in the Trust. Energy reduction is a key feature of the Trust's Estates management strategy and asset management plan. In the last year we have undertaken heating system capital work at 3 schools which will further improve energy management. We have also demolished an old and very energy inefficient prefabricated building previously housing 5 classrooms and staff areas at one of our High schools.

The Trust recently engaged with the DfE Located Great British Energy Solar Partnership following an invitation in relation to one of our High schools. This programme will look to support us with our sustainability journey and specifically identify practical options to introduce decarbonisation and better energy management. Any lessons learned at this school will be cascaded across the Trust's estate.

Our understanding of the asset condition and energy consumption across our estate improves each year. The Trust changed gas and electricity supplier in October 2025 to help secure better statistics on utility consumption. With this improved intelligence we can continue to target our attention and investment into those areas of the estate that result in improved energy saving.

### **AUDITOR**

RSM UK Audit LLP have been reappointed as auditors for the forthcoming year.

### **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 Trustee's 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 11 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



D J Harrison  
**Chair of Trustees**

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

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### Scope of responsibility

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

As Trustees, we have reviewed and taken account of the guidance in DfE's Academy Trust Governance Guide and Academy Trust Governance Code account of the guidance in DfE's Governance guidance.

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive of the Trust, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform to the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreements between the Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or a breakdown in internal control.

### Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' report and in the statement of Trustees' responsibilities. As described in the Trustees' report, the Trustees delegate several functions to the Local Governing Committee (LGC) of each academy. These LGCs meet a minimum of three times throughout the year in order to govern the affairs of the individual academies, including budget monitoring. During 2024/25 a governance professional employed by the Trust was introduced to 10 schools, allowing for better sharing of information between LGCs and the Trust Board, as well as ensuring clarity around Trust policies and processes. Following the success of the pilot, further schools will be supported by a Trust governance professional going forward, with the expectation that this will improve communication and enhance all aspects of governance within the Trust.

The Board of Trustees has formally met six times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

| Trustees                              | Meetings attended | Out of possible |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| D J Harrison (Chair of Trustees)      | 5                 | 6               |
| G Hardy (Chair of Audit Committee)    | 5                 | 6               |
| K McCourt                             | 6                 | 6               |
| J Gorlach                             | 6                 | 6               |
| M McGrady (Resigned 12 November 2024) | 0                 | 1               |
| A Miller                              | 4                 | 6               |
| P Chadwick                            | 1                 | 6               |
| A M Johnson                           | 4                 | 6               |

Membership of the Board of Trustees did not change significantly during 24/25. Matthew McGrady stepped down as a Director in November, and Andrew Johnson's tenure as Co-opted Director was also extended for a further year. Janice Gorlach joined the Finance and Risk committees from the summer term onwards. During the year, the work of the Board was focused around school improvement (school standards and performance), Trust strategic and development planning (including expansion and policy making) and financial oversight, along with the usual standing items dealing with areas such as estates, health/safety and safeguarding.

The Board and its four sub-committees received a significant amount of information throughout the year from the Trust's Executive team, school leaders and internal auditors. Minutes show that, overall, Board members were happy with the quality and frequency of information, and attendance at meetings was good. Management accounts are made available to Trustees every month, and Trust staff have continued to look at various reporting tools to give Trustees better oversight of financial, academic performance and business risks and to improve these wherever possible.



# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

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### Governance reviews

Governance arrangements, including financial regulations and a scheme of delegation, were originally created for the establishment of the Trust on 1 April 2020 and the scheme was updated in December 2021 and again during this academic year. The Trustees are satisfied with the overall governance arrangements and have implemented plans for continuous improvement of these arrangements.

An external review of governance was commissioned and completed during 2022/23, with recommendations followed up on and progressed.

Since then the Trust has undertaken a sustained programme of governance improvement over subsequent years. Key developments have included:

- In September 2024 the Trust decided to offer Governance partners to our schools to bring Governance support "inhouse". This initial pilot saw 10 schools supported. This model was seen to enhance consistency of advice to LGCs, enable faster responses to any questions from LGCs, identify training needs and provide the ability to address these promptly, ensure clarity around Trust policies and processes and raise the knowledge of the Trust central team and Board. The intention is to ensure that our governance processes create a pyramid of information and questions flowing from each school's LGC to the Trust Board and Executive team. Following the success of the pilot two more Governance partners were recruited for September 2025 so 80% of Trust schools will now be supported by a Trust governance professional in 2025/26;
- Enhanced engagement with regional and national governance networks within the academy sector, enabling the Trust to benchmark its practices against sector-leading approaches and contribute to wider professional dialogue;
- Comprehensive consultation with governors and Trustees to develop a cohesive governance model appropriate to the Trust's structure and strategic objectives. This review, conducted with LGCs, has been designed to fundamentally examine how things are working and ensure all parties involved in the governance structure understand their roles, responsibilities, decision-making authorities and have the information they need to fulfil their purpose.

The Trust Board remains committed to the ongoing development of its governance arrangements in line with best practice and regulatory guidance. The Board and Audit Committee will monitor the effectiveness of these key developments over the next year and have agreed that as part of its internal audit plan that an audit of "Governance structures and policies" will be conducted in Spring 2027.

### Finance & Resources Committee

The Finance & Resources Committee is a subcommittee of the main Board of Trustees. It operates separate to the Risk & Audit Committee, in line with best practice for Trusts of our size. The Finance & Resources Committee's purpose is to support both the Chief Executive of the Trust and the Trustees of the Board in their responsibilities for financial issues of performance management, budgeting, budgetary control, treasury management and business planning by reviewing the comprehensiveness of assurances in meeting the Trust Board's accounting needs. The chair of the Finance & Resources Committee is DJ Harrison.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

| Trustees                                     | Meetings attended | Out of possible |
|--|-------------------|-----------------|
| <b>D J Harrison (Chair of Trustees)</b>      | <b>3</b>          | <b>3</b>        |
| <b>G Hardy (Chair of Audit Committee)</b>    | <b>2</b>          | <b>3</b>        |
| <b>J Gorlach</b>                             | <b>1</b>          | <b>1</b>        |
| <b>M McGrady (Resigned 12 November 2024)</b> | <b>0</b>          | <b>1</b>        |
| <b>P Chadwick</b>                            | <b>3</b>          | <b>3</b>        |

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

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### Risk & Audit Committee

The Risk & Audit Committee is also a subcommittee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to support both the Chief Executive of the Trust and the Board in their responsibilities for issues of risk, internal control and governance by reviewing the comprehensiveness of assurances in meeting the Trust Board's accounting needs. As part of its role, the Committee selects an external and internal auditor and oversees their work.

Attendance during the year at meetings of the Committee was as follows:

| Trustees                                     | Meetings attended | Out of possible |
|--|-------------------|-----------------|
| <b>D J Harrison (Chair of Trustees)</b>      | <b>3</b>          | <b>3</b>        |
| <b>G Hardy (Chair of Audit Committee)</b>    | <b>2</b>          | <b>3</b>        |
| <b>J Gorlach</b>                             | <b>1</b>          | <b>1</b>        |
| <b>M McGrady (Resigned 12 November 2024)</b> | <b>0</b>          | <b>1</b>        |

### Review of value for money

As accounting officer, the Chief Executive has responsibility for ensuring that the Trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The accounting officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes (as well as estate safety and management) achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

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

- Continuing to develop the use benchmarking internally within the Trust schools, sharing data with all schools and encouraging its use during the period March to May whilst schools are planning for the next academic year and budget.
- Maintaining a Procurement Strategy and procurement workplan with the Trust Board. The Procurement Strategy outlines our commitment to streamline purchasing processes, optimise resources, and ensure value for money while upholding the core values and objectives of the Trust.
- Engaged the support of external bodies to undertake spending analysis to improve our understanding of efficiency opportunities that might be available to us and enhance our ability to realise these opportunities. This includes working with the Department for Education (DfE) and Education Commercial Services.
- Engaging with the DfE Procurement Excellence Programme with the Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply (CIPS). Initial assessment received in 2025 recognised the strong practice already in place in the Trust. This assessment and action plan to enhance practice further was shared with the Trust Board during the year. This plan has been followed and it is currently expected the Trust will apply to secure procurement excellence accreditation in early 2026.
- The above activities have led to several procurement exercises over the last year to enhance value for money. These include maximising the value from the new MIS rolled out to all BBCET schools from April 2024; new utility supplier for our schools from October 2025; a new refuse & recycling contractor for all of our schools from October 2025 etc. In 2025/26 we will be procuring catering services for 28 of our 39 schools .

### The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Trust's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place at the Trust for the year ended 31 August 2025 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

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### Capacity to handle risk

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

### The risk and control framework

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Board of Trustees.
- regular reviews by the finance and resources purposes committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes.
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance.
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines.
- identification and management of risks.

The board of trustees has decided:

To continue to buy-in an internal audit service. During the period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 this was provided by TIAA Ltd.

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

- Risk Management
- Corporate Health & Safety Compliance
- Cash Handling
- Accounts payable including BACS
- Procurement cards
- Cash
- Review of implementation of recommendations

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

The Trust's Internal auditor, TIAA Ltd have followed their schedule of work for 2024-25 and produced three reports (Autumn, Spring and Summer) and also their final annual report. The final annual report is very positive.

From the detailed work completed on the areas covered it can be concluded that the Trust has reasonable controls in place for risk management and corporate health and safety compliance. There was substantial assurance for cash handling and accounts payable in all areas covered. Therefore the Trust can take comfort that the systems in place are operating in line with expectations.

Over the year through these audit visits and testing they offered a total of 2 important recommendations, 9 routine and 2 operational recommendations of best practice, but zero urgent recommendations. There were no recommendations outstanding from the previous year.

All recommendations from the internal audits have been considered and addressed by the Trust's management.

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

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### Managing conflicts of interest

The Trust requires all Trustees, governors and senior staff across the Trust with purchasing roles to complete a declaration of pecuniary interest at the start of each financial year. The responses are collated and, in respect of Trustees and governors, posted onto the Trust website and the website of each school in the governance section. At the start of every meeting of the Trustees, the Chair or acting Chair will always ask Trustees if they have any conflicts of interest to declare. The accounts team use these annual declarations to check against their supplier records to ensure we do not have a related party that we are unaware of. Currently the only known related parties for the Trust are those associated with the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle and the Youth Ministry Team.

### Review of effectiveness

As accounting officer, the Chief Executive has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of Internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:

- the work of the internal auditor
- the work of the external auditor
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process or the school resource management self-assessment tool
- the work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the Internal control framework.

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

### Conclusion

Based on the advice of the risk and audit 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 11 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



D J Harrison  
Chair of Trustees

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

## STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

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

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

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



A Bath  
**Accounting Officer**

11 December 2025

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

## STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

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The trustees (who are also the directors of Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust 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 Academies 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 the DfE have been applied for the purposes intended.

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 11 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



D J Harrison  
**Chair of Trustees**

# **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST**

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## **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust (the “charitable company”) for the year ended 31 August 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including 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.

# **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST (CONTINUED)**

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## **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 29, 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.



## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST (CONTINUED)

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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, Department for Education's Academy Trust Handbook and Academies Accounts Direction. 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.

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 as the area 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, challenging judgments and estimates in the preparation of the financial statements.

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.

*Lucy Robson*

Lucy Robson (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
For and on behalf of RSM UK Audit LLP, Statutory Auditor  
Chartered Accountants  
1 St. James' Gate  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
United Kingdom  
NE1 4AD

15/12/25

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

|  |       | Unrestricted<br>Funds | Restricted<br>General<br>Funds | Restricted<br>Fixed Asset<br>Funds | Total<br>2025  | Total<br>2024  |
|--|-------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|  | Notes | £000                  | £000                           | £000                               | £000           | £000           |
| <b>Income and endowments from:</b>                                   |       |                       |                                |                                    |                |                |
| Donations and capital grants   | 3     | -                     | 78                             | 3,369                              | 3,447          | 2,789          |
| Charitable activities:   |       |                       |                                |                                    |                |                |
| - Funding for educational operations                                 | 4     | -                     | 102,553                        | -                                  | 102,553        | 97,079         |
| - Teaching school  | 4     | -                     | 7                              | -                                  | 7              | 5              |
| Other trading activities   | 5     | 5,129                 | -                              | -                                  | 5,129          | 4,578          |
| Investments  | 6     | 616                   | -                              | -                                  | 616            | 442            |
| <b>Total</b>   |       | <u>5,745</u>          | <u>102,638</u>                 | <u>3,369</u>                       | <u>111,752</u> | <u>104,893</u> |
| <b>Expenditure on:</b>   |       |                       |                                |                                    |                |                |
| Charitable activities:   |       |                       |                                |                                    |                |                |
| - Educational operations   | 8     | 4,529                 | 103,093                        | 3,194                              | 110,816        | 107,701        |
| - Teaching school  | 8     | -                     | 7                              | -                                  | 7              | 5              |
| Charitable expenditure - transfer of existing academy into the trust |       | -                     | -                              | -                                  | -              | 177            |
| <b>Total</b>   | 7     | <u>4,529</u>          | <u>103,100</u>                 | <u>3,194</u>                       | <u>110,823</u> | <u>107,883</u> |
| <b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>                                      |       | 1,216                 | (462)                          | 175                                | 929            | (2,990)        |
| Transfers between funds  | 21    | -                     | (3,942)                        | 3,942                              | -              | -              |
| <b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>                               |       |                       |                                |                                    |                |                |
| Actuarial losses on defined benefit schemes                          | 28    | -                     | (524)                          | -                                  | (524)          | (310)          |
| <b>Net movement in funds</b>   |       | 1,216                 | (4,928)                        | 4,117                              | 405            | (3,300)        |
| <b>Reconciliation of funds</b>                                       |       |                       |                                |                                    |                |                |
| Total funds brought forward  |       | <u>2,238</u>          | <u>15,535</u>                  | <u>92,358</u>                      | <u>110,131</u> | <u>113,431</u> |
| Total funds carried forward  |       | <u>3,454</u>          | <u>10,607</u>                  | <u>96,475</u>                      | <u>110,536</u> | <u>110,131</u> |

**BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST****BALANCE SHEET****AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025**

|   |       | 2025    |         | 2024    |         |
|---|-------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
|   | Notes | £000    | £000    | £000    | £000    |
| <b>Fixed assets</b>                                     |       |         |         |         |         |
| Intangible assets                                       | 13    |         | -       |         | -       |
| Tangible assets   | 14    |         | 95,207  |         | 91,090  |
| <b>Current assets</b>                                   |       |         |         |         |         |
| Stock   | 15    | 7       |         | 7       |         |
| Debtors   | 16    | 4,426   |         | 3,662   |         |
| Investments   | 17    | 10,801  |         | 14,827  |         |
| Cash at bank and in hand                                |       | 8,528   |         | 7,639   |         |
|   |       | 23,762  |         | 26,135  |         |
| <b>Current liabilities</b>                              |       |         |         |         |         |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year          | 18    | (8,415) |         | (7,065) |         |
| <b>Net current assets</b>                               |       |         | 15,347  |         | 19,070  |
| <b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>            |       |         | 110,554 |         | 110,160 |
| Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year | 19    |         | (18)    |         | (29)    |
| <b>Net assets excluding pension asset</b>               |       |         | 110,536 |         | 110,131 |
| Defined benefit pension scheme asset                    | 28    |         | -       |         | -       |
| <b>Total net assets</b>                                 |       |         | 110,536 |         | 110,131 |
| <b>Funds of the Trust:</b>                              |       |         |         |         |         |
| <b>Restricted funds</b>                                 | 21    |         |         |         |         |
| - Restricted fixed asset funds                          |       |         | 96,475  |         | 92,358  |
| - Restricted income funds                               |       |         | 10,607  |         | 15,535  |
| <b>Total restricted funds</b>                           |       |         | 107,082 |         | 107,893 |
| <b>Unrestricted income funds</b>                        | 21    |         | 3,454   |         | 2,238   |
| <b>Total funds</b>                                      |       |         | 110,536 |         | 110,131 |

The financial statements on pages 33 to 63 were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 11 December 2025 and are signed on their behalf by:



D J Harrison  
Chair of Trustees

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

|   | Notes | 2025<br>£000 | £000  | 2024<br>£000 | £000    |
|---|-------|--------------|-------|--------------|---------|
| <b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>   |       |              |       |              |         |
| Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities                                 | 25    |              | 204   |              | (1,080) |
| <b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>   |       |              |       |              |         |
| Investment income   |       | 616          |       | 442          |         |
| Capital grants from DfE Group   |       | 3,132        |       | 2,644        |         |
| Capital funding received from others  |       | 237          |       | 74           |         |
| Purchase of tangible fixed assets   |       | (7,311)      |       | (4,044)      |         |
| Cash inflow/(outflow) from investments  |       | 4,026        |       | (3,569)      |         |
| <b>Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities</b>                          |       |              | 700   |              | (4,453) |
| <b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>   |       |              |       |              |         |
| Repayment of other loan   |       | (15)         |       | (11)         |         |
| <b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>  |       |              | (15)  |              | (11)    |
| <b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b> |       |              | 889   |              | (5,544) |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year                                  |       |              | 7,639 |              | 13,183  |
| <b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year</b>                                 |       |              | 8,528 |              | 7,639   |

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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#### 1 Accounting policies

##### **General information**

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

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

##### **Basis of preparation**

The financial statements of the 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 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 Trust.

Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest whole £1,000, except where otherwise indicated.

##### **Going concern**

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

##### **Income**

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

##### Grants

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

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

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

##### Donations

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

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

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

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### 1 Accounting policies (Continued)

#### Other income

Other income, including the hire of facilities, catering, income for school trips, school to school support, tuition, examinations and funds received for a staff secondment, 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.

#### Investment income

Interest receivable is included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis, and is stated inclusive of related tax credits.

#### **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.

#### Charitable activities

These are costs incurred on the 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 Trust apportioned to charitable activities.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

#### **Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

Assets costing £10,000 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.

The playing field land at one of the Trust's schools is held on a 125 year lease from Newcastle City Council. The land at the Trust's schools on which the main school buildings are situated are held on a licence from the trustees of the RC Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle. The substance of the arrangements are such that the schools are able to obtain future economic benefits from unrestricted use of the assets and hence as the risks and rewards have been transferred to the academy, the assets have been recognised within tangible fixed assets. The initial acquisition was recognised at fair value.

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

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

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### 1 Accounting policies (Continued)

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

|                              |                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Long term leasehold property | Straight line over 50 years |
| Assets under construction    | Not depreciated             |
| Computer equipment           | Straight line over 3 years  |
| Fixtures and fittings        | Straight line over 10 years |
| Motor vehicles               | Straight line over 5 years  |

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.

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost less any identified impairment loss. Cost includes professional fees and other directly attributable costs that are necessary to bring the property to its operating condition. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use and reclassified to freehold or leasehold land and buildings.

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.

#### **Property subject to Private Finance Initiative (PFI)**

Buildings that the Trust occupies were constructed under a PFI arrangement. As the Trust has the right to the transfer of the buildings on 31 March 2037, the risks and rewards of ownership have transferred and as such the Trust has recognised the assets used under the contracts within tangible fixed assets at its fair value.

#### **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 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.

#### **Investments**

Current asset investments are financial instruments and comprise fixed-term investments with a duration of over 3 months.

#### **Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents are basic financial instruments and include cash in hand and deposits held at call with banks.

#### **Stock**

Catering stocks are valued at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell.

#### **Financial instruments**

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

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

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

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### 1 Accounting policies (Continued)

#### Financial assets and liabilities

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the 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.

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

#### **Pensions benefits**

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the Trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a projected unit method. The TPS is an unfunded multi-employer scheme with no underlying assets to assign between employers. Consequently there is insufficient information to use defined benefit accounting, it is therefore treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate. Differences between contributions payable in the year and contributions actually paid are shown as either accruals or prepayments.



# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

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

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### 1 Accounting policies (Continued)

The LGPS is a funded scheme multi-employer scheme 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 the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised as other comprehensive income.

Actuarial gains and losses and the effect of the asset ceiling are recognised immediately as other comprehensive income.

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 Trust at the discretion of the Trustees.

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

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

#### **Agency arrangements**

The academy trust acts as an agent in distributing of 16-19 bursary funds from the DfE and SCITT bursary payments from the Student Loan Company. Payments received from the DfE and Student Loan Company, and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the Statement of Financial Activities as the academy does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The Academy can use up to 5% of the allocation towards its own administration costs for the 16-19 bursary funds and this is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities. The funds received and paid and any balances held are disclosed in note 30.

### 2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

#### Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

The 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.

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

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

### 2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement (Continued)

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 28, 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.

#### Critical areas of judgement

##### *PFI arrangement*

Management are required to make a judgement as to the appropriate accounting treatment and presentation of properties constructed under a PFI arrangement. They do this on a case by case basis with reference to the specific contracts. The considerations include:

- Right to access/ restrictions to use
- Risks and rewards of ownership
- Substance of transaction

As the Trust has the right to the transfer of the buildings on 31 March 2037, the risks and rewards of ownership have transferred and as such the Trust has recognised the assets used under the contracts within tangible fixed assets at its fair value.

##### *Local Government Pension Scheme*

Determining the existence of a minimum funding requirement for the Local Government Pension Scheme to be included in the asset ceiling in measuring and recognising a surplus in the scheme. This judgement is based on an assessment of the nature of the scheme as a statutory scheme and its inherent implied continuance as well as the operation of the primary and secondary contributions.

### 3 Donations and capital grants

|                 | Unrestricted<br>funds<br>£000 | Restricted<br>funds<br>£000 | Total<br>2025<br>£000 | Total<br>2024<br>£000 |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Capital grants  | -                             | 3,369                       | 3,369                 | 2,718                 |
| Other donations | -                             | 78                          | 78                    | 71                    |
|                 | <u>-</u>                      | <u>3,447</u>                | <u>3,447</u>          | <u>2,789</u>          |

The income from donations and capital grants was £3,447,000 (2024: £2,789,000) of which £78,000 was restricted (2024: £71,000) and £3,369,000 was restricted fixed assets (2024: £2,718,000).

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

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

### 4 Funding for the Trust's charitable activities

|   | Unrestricted<br>funds<br>£000 | Restricted<br>funds<br>£000 | Total<br>2025<br>£000 | Total<br>2024<br>£000 |
|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Funding for academy trust's educational operations</b> |                               |                             |                       |                       |
| <b>DfE grants</b>   |                               |                             |                       |                       |
| General annual grant (GAG)                                | -                             | 75,359                      | 75,359                | 71,924                |
| Other DfE grants:   |                               |                             |                       |                       |
| - Teacher's pension                                       | -                             | 1,944                       | 1,944                 | 938                   |
| - Pupil premium   | -                             | 5,339                       | 5,339                 | 5,169                 |
| - SCITT income  | -                             | 398                         | 398                   | 473                   |
| - Mainstream Schools Additional Grant                     | -                             | 2,708                       | 2,708                 | 2,482                 |
| - Teacher's pay grant                                     | -                             | 1,277                       | 1,277                 | 1,363                 |
| - 16-19 core education funding                            | -                             | 6,783                       | 6,783                 | 6,413                 |
| - Early years   | -                             | 2,679                       | 2,679                 | 2,565                 |
| - Others  | -                             | 3,632                       | 3,632                 | 3,894                 |
|   | -                             | 100,119                     | 100,119               | 95,221                |
| <b>Other government grants</b>                            |                               |                             |                       |                       |
| Local authority grants                                    | -                             | 2,338                       | 2,338                 | 1,764                 |
| Other government grants                                   | -                             | 96                          | 96                    | 94                    |
|   | -                             | 2,434                       | 2,434                 | 1,858                 |
|   | -                             | 102,553                     | 102,553               | 97,079                |
| <b>Teaching school</b>                                    |                               |                             |                       |                       |
| DfE grants  | -                             | 7                           | 7                     | 5                     |

The income from funding for charitable activities was £102,560,000 (2024: £97,084,000) of which £102,553,000 (2024: £97,079,000) was due to educational operations and £7,000 (2024: £5,000) was due to Teaching Schools.

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

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

### 5 Other trading activities

|                    | Unrestricted<br>funds<br>£000 | Restricted<br>funds<br>£000 | Total<br>2025<br>£000 | Total<br>2024<br>£000 |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Hire of facilities | 173                           | -                           | 173                   | 157                   |
| Catering income    | 1,764                         | -                           | 1,764                 | 1,624                 |
| School fund income | 247                           | -                           | 247                   | 254                   |
| Other income       | 2,945                         | -                           | 2,945                 | 2,543                 |
|                    | <u>5,129</u>                  | <u>-</u>                    | <u>5,129</u>          | <u>4,578</u>          |

The income from other trading activities was £5,129,000 (2024: £4,578,000) of which £5,129,000 was unrestricted (2024: £4,578,000).

### 6 Investment income

|                                   | Unrestricted<br>funds<br>£000 | Restricted<br>funds<br>£000 | Total<br>2025<br>£000 | Total<br>2024<br>£000 |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Interest from short term deposits | 616                           | -                           | 616                   | 442                   |
|                                   | <u>616</u>                    | <u>-</u>                    | <u>616</u>            | <u>442</u>            |

The income from investments was £616,000 (2024: £442,000) of which £616,000 was unrestricted (2024: £442,000).

### 7 Expenditure

|                                  | Staff costs<br>£000 | Non-pay expenditure |               | Total<br>2025<br>£000 | Total<br>2024<br>£000 |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|                                  |                     | Premises<br>£000    | Other<br>£000 |                       |                       |
| Academy's educational operations |                     |                     |               |                       |                       |
| - Direct costs                   | 73,886              | -                   | 4,173         | 78,059                | 73,649                |
| - Allocated support costs        | 8,347               | 11,839              | 12,571        | 32,757                | 34,052                |
| Teaching school                  |                     |                     |               |                       |                       |
| - Direct costs                   | 7                   | -                   | -             | 7                     | 5                     |
|                                  | <u>82,240</u>       | <u>11,839</u>       | <u>16,744</u> | <u>110,823</u>        | <u>107,706</u>        |

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

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

### 7 Expenditure (Continued)

| Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:   | 2025<br>£000 | 2024<br>£000 |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Operating lease rentals   | 1,247        | 1,463        |
| Net interest on defined benefit pension liability   | (258)        | (175)        |
| Depreciation of tangible fixed assets   | 3,194        | 3,234        |
| Impairment of tangible fixed assets   | -            | 2,505        |
| Fees payable to RSM UK Audit LLP and its associates in respect of both audit and non-audit services are as follows: |              |              |
| - Audit   | 79           | 74           |
| - Other services  | 23           | 39           |
| - Audit related assurance   | 9            | 9            |

Included within operating lease rentals of £1,247k (2024: £1,463k) are amounts relating to property subject to PFI arrangements of £1,138k (2024: £932k).

### 8 Charitable activities

|                        | Unrestricted<br>funds<br>£000 | Restricted<br>funds<br>£000 | Total<br>2025<br>£000 | Total<br>2024<br>£000 |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Direct costs</b>    |                               |                             |                       |                       |
| Educational operations | -                             | 78,059                      | 78,059                | 73,649                |
| Teaching school        | -                             | 7                           | 7                     | 5                     |
| <b>Support costs</b>   |                               |                             |                       |                       |
| Educational operations | 4,529                         | 28,228                      | 32,757                | 34,052                |
|                        | 4,529                         | 106,294                     | 110,823               | 107,706               |

The expenditure on educational operations was £110,816,000 (2024: £107,701,000) of which £4,529,000 was unrestricted (2024: £4,740,000), £103,093,000 was restricted (2024: £97,222,000) and £3,194,000 was restricted fixed assets (2024: £5,739,000).

The expenditure on teaching school was £7,000 (2024: £5,000) of which £7,000 was restricted (2024: £5,000).

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

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

### 8 Charitable activities (Continued)

| Analysis of support costs | Teaching<br>schools<br>£000 | Educational<br>operations<br>£000 | Total<br>2025<br>£000 | Total<br>2024<br>£000 |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Support staff costs       | -                           | 8,347                             | 8,347                 | 7,710                 |
| Depreciation              | -                           | 3,194                             | 3,194                 | 5,739                 |
| Technology costs          | -                           | 1,840                             | 1,840                 | 1,713                 |
| Premises costs            | -                           | 8,645                             | 8,645                 | 8,758                 |
| Legal costs               | -                           | 2,796                             | 2,796                 | 2,778                 |
| Other support costs       | -                           | 7,800                             | 7,800                 | 7,318                 |
| Governance costs          | -                           | 135                               | 135                   | 36                    |
|                           | -                           | 32,757                            | 32,757                | 34,052                |

### 9 Staff

#### Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

|                           | 2025<br>£000 | 2024<br>£000 |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Wages and salaries        | 58,500       | 55,797       |
| Social security costs     | 6,580        | 5,670        |
| Pension costs             | 14,509       | 12,759       |
| Staff costs - employees   | 79,589       | 74,226       |
| Agency staff costs        | 2,617        | 2,961        |
| Staff restructuring costs | 34           | 78           |
| Total staff expenditure   | 82,240       | 77,265       |

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

|   |    |    |
|---|----|----|
| Severance payments (including special severance payments) | 34 | 78 |
|---|----|----|

#### Exit payments

The Academy Trust paid 3 exit payments in the year, as follows:

£0 - £25,000 3

#### Special staff severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are special severance payments totalling £18,500 (2024: £33,765). Individually the payments were: £1,500 and £17,000.

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

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

### 9 Staff (Continued)

#### Staff numbers

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

|                            | 2025<br>Number | 2024<br>Number |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Teachers                   | 764            | 780            |
| Administration and support | 1,048          | 1,053          |
| Management                 | 136            | 138            |
|                            | <u>1,948</u>   | <u>1,971</u>   |

#### Higher paid staff

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

|                     | 2025<br>Number | 2024<br>Number |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|
| £60,001-£70,000     | 67             | 57             |
| £70,001-£80,000     | 37             | 23             |
| £80,001-£90,000     | 16             | 14             |
| £90,001-£100,000    | 13             | 4              |
| £100,001-£110,000   | 1              | 1              |
| £110,001-£120,000   | 2              | -              |
| £120,001 - £130,000 | -              | 5              |
| £130,001-£140,000   | 5              | -              |
| £190,001 - £200,000 | 1              | 1              |
|                     | <u>1</u>       | <u>1</u>       |

#### Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Trust comprise the Trustees and the key management personnel as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer national insurance and employer pension contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Trust was £786,486 (2024: £896,171).

### 10 Central services

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

- financial services;
- educational support services;
- support with the conversion to the academy trust.

The Trust charges for these services on the basis of a flat percentage of GAG income of 4.5% (2024: 4.5%).

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

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

### 10 Central services (Continued)

The amounts charged during the year were as follows:

|  | 2025<br>£000 | 2024<br>£000 |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| St Mary's Catholic School                    | 345          | 395          |
| St Benet Biscop Catholic Academy             | 289          | 313          |
| SS Peter and Paul's Catholic Primary Academy | 44           | 40           |
| Sacred Heart Catholic High School            | 342          | 387          |
| St Michael's RC Primary School               | 55           | 51           |
| Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School         | 49           | 46           |
| St Cuthbert's Catholic High School           | 332          | 369          |
| St Thomas More Catholic High School          | 386          | 437          |
| Our Lady & St Anne's RC Primary              | 54           | 50           |
| St Cuthberts RCVA Primary                    | 50           | 44           |
| St Lawrence's RC Primary                     | 57           | 55           |
| St Wilfrids RCVA Primary                     | 59           | 57           |
| St Bede's RC Primary                         | 44           | 48           |
| St Catherine's RCVA Primary                  | 42           | 41           |
| St Charles RC Primary                        | 44           | 43           |
| St Bede's RCVA Primary                       | 51           | 42           |
| St Mark's RCVA Primary                       | 47           | 47           |
| St George's RCVA Primary                     | 25           | 24           |
| English Martyrs' RC Primary                  | 100          | 95           |
| St Alban's RCVA Primary                      | 51           | 48           |
| St Paul's RC Primary School                  | 39           | 40           |
| St Cuthbert's RC Primary                     | 48           | 44           |
| St Josephs RC Primary                        | 53           | 56           |
| St Mary's RC Primary                         | 40           | 39           |
| Star of the Sea RC Primary                   | 71           | 68           |
| St Aidan's RC Catholic Primary School        | 48           | 45           |
| St John Vianney RC Primary School            | 84           | 83           |
| St Roberts Catholic First School             | 32           | 31           |
| St Cuthberts Catholic First School           | 21           | 20           |
| St Vincents Catholic Primary School          | 56           | 54           |
| St Cuthberts Catholic Primary School         | 46           | 48           |
| St Teresa's Catholic Primary School          | 48           | 44           |
| St Oswald's Catholic Primary School          | 44           | 42           |
| St Joseph's Catholic Primary School          | 60           | 48           |
| St Marys Catholic Primary School             | 44           | 41           |
| St Columba's Catholic Primary School         | 43           | 41           |
| St Stephen's Catholic Primary School         | 45           | 45           |
| St Bernadettes Catholic Primary School       | 59           | 57           |
| St Aidan's RC Primary School                 | 45           | 45           |
|  | <u>3,392</u> | <u>3,523</u> |



# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

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

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### 11 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year ended 31 August 2025, no trustee received any remuneration (excluding expenses) in their capacity as trustees. Travel and subsistence expenses totalling £320 (2024: £297) were reimbursed to one (2024: one) trustee.

Related party transactions involving the trustees are set out in note 29.

### 12 Trustees and officers' insurance

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

### 13 Intangible fixed assets

|   | Computer<br>software<br>£000 |
|---|------------------------------|
| <b>Cost</b>                               |                              |
| At 1 September 2024 and at 31 August 2025 | 16                           |
|   | <hr/>                        |
| <b>Amortisation</b>                       |                              |
| At 1 September 2024 and at 31 August 2025 | 16                           |
|   | <hr/>                        |
| <b>Carrying amount</b>                    |                              |
| At 31 August 2025                         | -                            |
|   | <hr/>                        |
| At 31 August 2024                         | -                            |
|   | <hr/>                        |

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

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

### 14 Tangible fixed assets

|                       | Long term<br>leasehold<br>property<br>£000 | Assets under<br>construction<br>£000 | Computer<br>equipment<br>£000 | Fixtures and<br>fittings<br>£000 | Motor<br>vehicles<br>£000 | Total<br>£000  |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Cost</b>           |  |                                      |                               |                                  |                           |                |
| At 1 September 2024   | 119,600                                    | 1,023                                | 2,778                         | 5,239                            | 132                       | 128,772        |
| Transfer of asset     | 877  | (882)                                | -                             | 5                                | -                         | -              |
| Additions             | 4,030                                      | 2,961                                | 207                           | 89                               | 24                        | 7,311          |
|                       | <u>124,507</u>                             | <u>3,102</u>                         | <u>2,985</u>                  | <u>5,333</u>                     | <u>156</u>                | <u>136,083</u> |
| <b>Depreciation</b>   |  |                                      |                               |                                  |                           |                |
| At 1 September 2024   | 33,895                                     | -                                    | 2,123                         | 1,550                            | 114                       | 37,682         |
| Charge for the year   | 2,288                                      | -                                    | 387                           | 505                              | 14                        | 3,194          |
|                       | <u>36,183</u>                              | <u>-</u>                             | <u>2,510</u>                  | <u>2,055</u>                     | <u>128</u>                | <u>40,876</u>  |
| <b>Net book value</b> |  |                                      |                               |                                  |                           |                |
| At 31 August 2025     | <u>88,324</u>                              | <u>3,102</u>                         | <u>475</u>                    | <u>3,278</u>                     | <u>28</u>                 | <u>95,207</u>  |
| At 31 August 2024     | <u>85,705</u>                              | <u>1,023</u>                         | <u>655</u>                    | <u>3,689</u>                     | <u>18</u>                 | <u>91,090</u>  |

With regard to the long term leasehold property included above, this should be read in conjunction with the statement below and the accounting policy.

With respect to the buildings from which the academy trust operates, these are legally owned by the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. The Trust is able to use the buildings under the terms of supplemental lease agreements. The substance of the arrangement is such that the Trust is able to obtain future economic benefits from unrestricted use of the asset. As such, the buildings are recognised as a fixed asset recorded at their fair value at the time of conversion. This is treated as the deemed cost.

### 15 Stock

|                | 2025<br>£000 | 2024<br>£000 |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Catering stock | <u>7</u>     | <u>7</u>     |

### 16 Debtors

|                                | 2025<br>£000 | 2024<br>£000 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Trade debtors                  | 37           | 47           |
| VAT recoverable                | 1,190        | 973          |
| Other debtors                  | 12           | 13           |
| Prepayments and accrued income | <u>3,187</u> | <u>2,629</u> |
|                                | <u>4,426</u> | <u>3,662</u> |

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

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

### 17 Current asset investments

Current asset investments are financial instruments and comprise short-term investments in a bank notice deposit account of £10,801k (2024: £14,827k).

### 18 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

|  | 2025<br>£000 | 2024<br>£000 |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Other loans                                | 7            | 11           |
| Trade creditors                            | 2,972        | 1,817        |
| Other taxation and social security         | 1,593        | 1,287        |
| Other creditors                            | 2,250        | 1,976        |
| Accruals and deferred income (see note 20) | 1,593        | 1,974        |
|  | <u>8,415</u> | <u>7,065</u> |

### 19 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

|                                       | 2025<br>£000         | 2024<br>£000         |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Other loans                           | 18                   | 29                   |
|                                       | <u>18</u>            | <u>29</u>            |
| <b>Analysis of loans</b>              | <b>2025<br/>£000</b> | <b>2024<br/>£000</b> |
| Wholly repayable within five years    | 25                   | 40                   |
| Less: included in current liabilities | (7)                  | (11)                 |
|                                       | <u>18</u>            | <u>29</u>            |

Included within other loans are amounts payable within one year of £7k (2024: £11k) and after more than one year of £18k (2024: £29k) in respect of Salix loans which are not subject to interest and are repayable in instalments over a period of 8 years from the loan agreement date.

### 20 Deferred income

|                                     | 2025<br>£000 | 2024<br>£000 |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Deferred income is included within: |              |              |
| Creditors due within one year       | 728          | 586          |
|                                     | <u>728</u>   | <u>586</u>   |
| Deferred income at 1 September 2024 | 586          | 583          |
| Released from previous years        | (586)        | (583)        |
| Resources deferred in the year      | 728          | 586          |
|                                     | <u>728</u>   | <u>586</u>   |
| Deferred income at 31 August 2025   | <u>728</u>   | <u>586</u>   |

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

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

### 20 Deferred income (Continued)

At the reporting date, the Trust held funds received in advance of £259k Early Years (EY), £459k school trips and £10k School Centred Initial Teacher Training Programme (SCITT) (2024: £310k EY, £264k school trips, £12k SCITT).

### 21 Funds

|                                     | Balance at<br>1 September<br>2024<br>£000 | Income<br>£000 | Expenditure<br>£000 | Gains,<br>losses and<br>transfers<br>£000 | Balance at<br>31 August<br>2025<br>£000 |
|-------------------------------------|---|----------------|---------------------|---|---|
| <b>Restricted general funds</b>     |   |                |                     |   |   |
| General Annual Grant (GAG)          | 15,535                                    | 75,359         | (76,345)            | (3,942)                                   | 10,607                                  |
| Pupil premium                       | -   | 5,339          | (5,339)             | -   | -                                       |
| SCITT income                        | -   | 398            | (398)               | -   | -                                       |
| Teacher's pay grant                 | -   | 1,277          | (1,277)             | -   | -                                       |
| Teacher's pension                   | -   | 1,944          | (1,944)             | -   | -                                       |
| Other grants                        | -   | 15,802         | (15,802)            | -   | -                                       |
| Other government grants             | -   | 2,434          | (2,434)             | -   | -                                       |
| Teaching school                     | -   | 7              | (7)                 | -   | -                                       |
| Other restricted income             | -   | 78             | (78)                | -   | -                                       |
| Pension reserve                     | -   | -              | 524                 | (524)                                     | -                                       |
|                                     | <u>15,535</u>                             | <u>102,638</u> | <u>(103,100)</u>    | <u>(4,466)</u>                            | <u>10,607</u>                           |
| <b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b> |   |                |                     |   |   |
| Inherited on conversion             | 82,947                                    | -              | (1,180)             | -   | 81,767                                  |
| DfE group capital grants            | 8,422                                     | 3,369          | (1,908)             | -   | 9,883                                   |
| Capital expenditure from GAG        | 989                                       | -              | (106)               | 3,942                                     | 4,825                                   |
|                                     | <u>92,358</u>                             | <u>3,369</u>   | <u>(3,194)</u>      | <u>3,942</u>                              | <u>96,475</u>                           |
| <b>Total restricted funds</b>       | <u>107,893</u>                            | <u>106,007</u> | <u>(106,294)</u>    | <u>(524)</u>                              | <u>107,082</u>                          |
| <b>Unrestricted funds</b>           |   |                |                     |   |   |
| General funds                       | <u>2,238</u>                              | <u>5,745</u>   | <u>(4,529)</u>      | <u>-</u>                                  | <u>3,454</u>                            |
| <b>Total funds</b>                  | <u>110,131</u>                            | <u>111,752</u> | <u>(110,823)</u>    | <u>(524)</u>                              | <u>110,536</u>                          |

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

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

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### 21 Funds (Continued)

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

#### **General Annual Grant**

General Annual Grant must be used for the normal running of the academy including salaries and related costs, overheads, repairs and maintenance and insurance. Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State,

The funding agreements of the remaining schools are not subject to a limit on the GAG available to carry forward.

#### **Other DfE grants**

Other DfE grants funds relating to Pupil Premium, SCITT, Teachers' pay grant, Teachers' pension grant, Early Years funding and other funding have arisen from funding received for the furtherance of the Trust's activities that are not funded through the General Annual Grant.

#### **Teaching school**

Teaching School funds are to help student teachers complete Initial Teacher Training within the school.

#### **Other government grants**

Other government grants funds relating to LAC Funding have arisen from funding received for the furtherance of the Trust's activities.

#### **Other restricted funds**

Other restricted funds represent lower level grants and donations received for a particular purpose. any relevant costs have been offset against this income.

#### **Pension reserve**

The pension reserve is the asset due to the surplus on the Local Government Pension Scheme. Further details are shown in note 28.

#### **Restricted fixed asset funds**

This represents capital grants and transfers from other funds to purchase fixed assets. Depreciation is charged against each fund over the useful life of the associated assets. The capital expenditure from GAG fixed assets fund has been set up to recognise the tangible assets purchased by the Academy Trust following the conversion that have been funded from GAG. This fund was created by a transfer from the GAG fund of an amount equivalent to the cost of the tangible assets involved.

In the current year £3,942k (2024: £787k) was transferred from restricted General Annual Grant funds to Capital expenditure to cover capital expenditure incurred during the year.

It also reflects the unspent DFC and SCA balances as fixed asset reserves, unspent funds at the school fund level.

#### **Unrestricted funds**

Unrestricted funds can be used for any purpose, at the discretion of the trustees, within the objects of the academy trust.

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

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

### 21 Funds (Continued)

#### Funds prior year

|                                     | Balance at<br>1 September<br>2023<br>£000 | Income<br>£000 | Expenditure<br>£000 | Gains,<br>losses and<br>transfers<br>£000 | Balance at<br>31 August<br>2024<br>£000 |
|-------------------------------------|---|----------------|---------------------|---|---|
| <b>Restricted general funds</b>     |   |                |                     |   |   |
| General Annual Grant (GAG)          | 16,881                                    | 71,924         | (72,483)            | (787)                                     | 15,535                                  |
| Pupil premium                       | -   | 5,169          | (5,169)             | -   | -                                       |
| SCITT income                        | -   | 473            | (473)               | -   | -                                       |
| Teacher's pay grant                 | -   | 1,363          | (1,363)             | -   | -                                       |
| Teacher's pension                   | -   | 938            | (938)               | -   | -                                       |
| Other grants                        | -   | 15,354         | (15,354)            | -   | -                                       |
| Other government grants             | -   | 1,858          | (1,858)             | -   | -                                       |
| Teaching school                     | -   | 5              | (5)                 | -   | -                                       |
| Other restricted income             | -   | 71             | (71)                | -   | -                                       |
| Pension reserve                     | -   | -              | 310                 | (310)                                     | -                                       |
|                                     | <u>16,881</u>                             | <u>97,155</u>  | <u>(97,404)</u>     | <u>(1,097)</u>                            | <u>15,535</u>                           |
| <b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b> |   |                |                     |   |   |
| Inherited on conversion             | 86,646                                    | -              | (3,699)             | -   | 82,947                                  |
| DfE group capital grants            | 7,637                                     | 2,718          | (1,933)             | -   | 8,422                                   |
| Capital expenditure from GAG        | 309                                       | -              | (107)               | 787                                       | 989                                     |
|                                     | <u>94,592</u>                             | <u>2,718</u>   | <u>(5,739)</u>      | <u>787</u>                                | <u>92,358</u>                           |
| <b>Total restricted funds</b>       | <u>111,473</u>                            | <u>99,873</u>  | <u>(103,143)</u>    | <u>(310)</u>                              | <u>107,893</u>                          |
| <b>Unrestricted funds</b>           |   |                |                     |   |   |
| General funds                       | <u>1,958</u>                              | <u>5,020</u>   | <u>(4,740)</u>      | <u>-</u>                                  | <u>2,238</u>                            |
| <b>Total funds</b>                  | <u>113,431</u>                            | <u>104,893</u> | <u>(107,883)</u>    | <u>(310)</u>                              | <u>110,131</u>                          |

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

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

### 21 Funds (Continued)

#### Total funds analysis by academy

|  | 2025    | 2024    |
|--|---------|---------|
|  | £000    | £000    |
| Fund balances at 31 August 2025 were allocated as follows: |         |         |
| St Mary's Catholic School                                  | 2,236   | 2,166   |
| St Benet Biscop Catholic Academy                           | 1,324   | 1,755   |
| SS Peter and Paul's Catholic Primary Academy               | (221)   | (193)   |
| Sacred Heart Catholic High School                          | 420     | 683     |
| St Michael's RC Primary School                             | 317     | 488     |
| Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School                       | 294     | 235     |
| St Cuthbert's Catholic High School                         | 2,707   | 5,022   |
| St Thomas More Catholic High School                        | 344     | 543     |
| Our Lady & St Anne's RC Primary                            | 504     | 411     |
| St Cuthberts RCVA Primary                                  | 244     | 245     |
| St Lawrence's RC Primary                                   | 193     | 197     |
| St Wilfrids RCVA Primary                                   | 45      | 121     |
| St Bede's RC Primary                                       | 49      | 183     |
| St Catherine's RCVA Primary                                | 9       | 84      |
| St Charles RC Primary                                      | 283     | 227     |
| St Bede's RCVA Primary                                     | 19      | (21)    |
| St Mark's RCVA Primary                                     | 261     | 234     |
| St George's RCVA Primary                                   | 6       | 22      |
| English Martyrs' RC Primary                                | 520     | 550     |
| St Alban's RCVA Primary                                    | 72      | 156     |
| St Paul's RC Primary School                                | 304     | 277     |
| St Cuthbert's RC Primary                                   | 177     | 157     |
| St Josephs RC Primary                                      | (117)   | 307     |
| St Mary's RC Primary                                       | 190     | 214     |
| Star of the Sea RC Primary                                 | 238     | 257     |
| St Aidan's RC Catholic Primary School                      | 72      | 93      |
| St John Vianney RC Primary School                          | 235     | 305     |
| St Roberts Catholic First School                           | 216     | 177     |
| St Cuthberts Catholic First School                         | 71      | 95      |
| St Vincents Catholic Primary School                        | 517     | 491     |
| St Cuthberts Catholic Primary School                       | 254     | 212     |
| St Teresa's Catholic Primary School                        | 273     | 290     |
| St Oswald's Catholic Primary School                        | 34      | 80      |
| St Joseph's Catholic Primary School                        | 101     | 18      |
| St Marys Catholic Primary School                           | 141     | 80      |
| St Columba's Catholic Primary School                       | (95)    | (134)   |
| St Stephen's Catholic Primary School                       | 99      | 75      |
| St Bernadettes Catholic Primary School                     | 151     | 156     |
| St Aidan's RC Primary School                               | 25      | 95      |
| Central services   | 1,549   | 1,420   |
| Total before fixed assets fund and pension reserve         | 14,061  | 17,773  |
| Restricted fixed asset fund                                | 96,475  | 92,358  |
| Pension reserve  | -       | -       |
| Total funds  | 110,536 | 110,131 |

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

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

### 21 Funds (Continued)

The Trust notes the deficit reserves held at SS Peter and Paul's Catholic Primary Academy, St Josephs RC Primary and St Columba's Catholic Primary School. The Trust has taken steps to return both schools to a surplus position and is forecasting surpluses over the coming years to reduce the deficits noted above.

#### Total cost analysis by academy

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

|  | Teaching and<br>educational<br>support staff<br>£000 | Other support<br>staff costs<br>£000 | Educational<br>supplies<br>£000 | Other costs<br>excluding<br>depreciation<br>£000 | Total<br>2025<br>£000 | Total<br>2024<br>£000 |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| St Mary's Catholic School                    | 7,124  | 611                                  | 581                             | 2,639  | 10,955                | 10,322                |
| St Benet Biscop Catholic Academy             | 5,831  | 775                                  | 346                             | 1,436  | 8,388                 | 7,655                 |
| SS Peter and Paul's Catholic Primary Academy | 860  | 150                                  | 30                              | 233  | 1,273                 | 1,202                 |
| Sacred Heart Catholic High School            | 8,131  | 914                                  | 694                             | 1,664  | 11,403                | 11,224                |
| St Michael's RC Primary School               | 1,264  | 117                                  | 41                              | 291  | 1,713                 | 1,532                 |
| Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School         | 983  | 139                                  | 92                              | 295  | 1,509                 | 1,441                 |
| St Cuthbert's Catholic High School           | 6,513  | 630                                  | 449                             | 2,238  | 9,830                 | 9,143                 |
| St Thomas More Catholic High School          | 9,144  | 569                                  | 618                             | 1,232  | 11,563                | 11,080                |
| Our Lady & St Anne's RC Primary              | 987  | 219                                  | 63                              | 304  | 1,573                 | 1,483                 |
| St Cuthberts RCVA Primary                    | 994  | 82                                   | 33                              | 272  | 1,381                 | 1,244                 |
| St Lawrence's RC Primary                     | 1,272  | 90                                   | 27                              | 368  | 1,757                 | 1,698                 |
| St Wilfrids RCVA Primary                     | 1,261  | 248                                  | 64                              | 231  | 1,804                 | 1,771                 |
| St Bede's RC Primary                         | 999  | 125                                  | 35                              | 355  | 1,514                 | 1,357                 |
| St Catherine's RCVA Primary                  | 961  | 82                                   | 35                              | 383  | 1,461                 | 1,252                 |
| St Charles RC Primary                        | 991  | 72                                   | 41                              | 241  | 1,345                 | 1,311                 |
| St Bede's RCVA Primary                       | 806  | 126                                  | 27                              | 350  | 1,309                 | 1,425                 |
| St Mark's RCVA Primary                       | 1,065  | 149                                  | 22                              | 253  | 1,489                 | 1,490                 |
| St George's RCVA Primary                     | 482  | 80                                   | 25                              | 183  | 770                   | 794                   |
| English Martyrs' RC Primary                  | 2,180  | 169                                  | 101                             | 705  | 3,155                 | 2,835                 |
| St Alban's RCVA Primary                      | 1,066  | 104                                  | 44                              | 460  | 1,674                 | 1,582                 |
| St Paul's RC Primary School                  | 894  | 169                                  | 23                              | 186  | 1,272                 | 1,231                 |
| St Cuthbert's RC Primary                     | 854  | 51                                   | 33                              | 327  | 1,265                 | 1,018                 |
| St Josephs RC Primary                        | 1,407  | 121                                  | 33                              | 498  | 2,059                 | 1,872                 |
| St Mary's RC Primary                         | 941  | 126                                  | 31                              | 217  | 1,315                 | 1,252                 |
| Star of the Sea RC Primary                   | 1,448  | 139                                  | 47                              | 381  | 2,015                 | 1,984                 |



# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

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

### 21 Funds

|  | Teaching and<br>educational<br>support staff<br>£000 | Other support<br>staff costs<br>£000 | Educational<br>supplies<br>£000 | Other costs<br>excluding<br>depreciation<br>£000 | Total<br>2025<br>£000 | Total<br>2024<br>£000<br>(Continued) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| St Aidan's RC Catholic Primary School  | 1,019  | 142                                  | 32                              | 239  | 1,432                 | 1,349                                |
| St John Vianney RC Primary School      | 1,846  | 122                                  | 73                              | 523  | 2,564                 | 2,447                                |
| St Roberts Catholic First School       | 813  | 114                                  | 30                              | 85   | 1,042                 | 1,018                                |
| St Cuthberts Catholic First School     | 415  | 89                                   | 10                              | 102  | 616                   | 579                                  |
| St Vincents Catholic Primary School    | 1,067  | 98                                   | 46                              | 381  | 1,592                 | 1,483                                |
| St Cuthberts Catholic Primary School   | 1,051  | 77                                   | 43                              | 336  | 1,507                 | 1,366                                |
| St Teresa's Catholic Primary School    | 931  | 77                                   | 54                              | 308  | 1,370                 | 1,279                                |
| St Oswald's Catholic Primary School    | 845  | 66                                   | 29                              | 295  | 1,235                 | 1,162                                |
| St Joseph's Catholic Primary School    | 995  | 76                                   | 58                              | 397  | 1,526                 | 1,447                                |
| St Marys Catholic Primary School       | 782  | 102                                  | 47                              | 239  | 1,170                 | 1,124                                |
| St Columba's Catholic Primary School   | 950  | 111                                  | 29                              | 188  | 1,278                 | 1,302                                |
| St Stephen's Catholic Primary School   | 1,004  | 133                                  | 43                              | 196  | 1,376                 | 1,350                                |
| St Bernadettes Catholic Primary School | 1,437  | 136                                  | 69                              | 129  | 1,771                 | 1,714                                |
| St Aidan's RC Primary School           | 976  | 194                                  | 51                              | 277  | 1,498                 | 1,480                                |
| Central services                       | 1,304  | 753                                  | 24                              | 1,779  | 3,860                 | 3,846                                |
|  | <u>73,893</u>  | <u>8,347</u>                         | <u>4,173</u>                    | <u>21,216</u>                                    | <u>107,629</u>        | <u>102,144</u>                       |

### 22 Analysis of net assets between funds

|  | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£000 | Restricted<br>General<br>Funds<br>£000 | Restricted<br>Fixed asset<br>Funds<br>£000 | Total<br>Funds<br>£000 |
|--|-------------------------------|--|--|------------------------|
| <b>Fund balances at 31 August 2025 are represented by:</b> |                               |  |  |                        |
| Tangible fixed assets                                      | -                             | -                                      | 95,207                                     | 95,207                 |
| Current assets   | 3,454                         | 19,015                                 | 1,293                                      | 23,762                 |
| Current liabilities  | -                             | (8,408)                                | (7)  | (8,415)                |
| Liabilities due after one year                             | -                             | -                                      | (18)                                       | (18)                   |
| <b>Total net assets</b>                                    | <u>3,454</u>                  | <u>10,607</u>                          | <u>96,475</u>                              | <u>110,536</u>         |

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

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

### 22 Analysis of net assets between funds (Continued)

|  | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£000 | Restricted funds:<br>General<br>£000 | Fixed asset<br>£000 | Total<br>Funds<br>£000 |
|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:</b> |                               |                                      |                     |                        |
| Tangible fixed assets                                      | -                             | -                                    | 91,090              | 91,090                 |
| Current assets   | 2,238                         | 22,589                               | 1,308               | 26,135                 |
| Current liabilities  | -                             | (7,054)                              | (11)                | (7,065)                |
| Liabilities due after one year                             | -                             | -                                    | (29)                | (29)                   |
| <b>Total net assets</b>                                    | <b>2,238</b>                  | <b>15,535</b>                        | <b>92,358</b>       | <b>110,131</b>         |

### 23 Capital commitments

|   | 2025<br>£000 | 2024<br>£000 |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Expenditure contracted for but not provided in the financial statements | 837          | 3,904        |

### 24 Long-term commitments

#### Operating leases

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

|  | 2025<br>£000  | 2024<br>£000  |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Amounts due within one year            | 1,257         | 1,145         |
| Amounts due between one and five years | 4,541         | 4,080         |
| Amounts due after five years           | 6,855         | 5,902         |
|  | <b>12,653</b> | <b>11,127</b> |

Included within the trust's total commitments under operating leases were property subject to PFI arrangements of £12,061k (2024: £10,557k).

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

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

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

|   | Notes | 2025<br>£000 | 2024<br>£000   |
|---|-------|--------------|----------------|
| Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period<br>(as per the statement of financial activities) |       | 929          | (2,990)        |
| Adjusted for:   |       |              |                |
| Net deficit on transfer of academy in the trust   |       | -            | 177            |
| Capital grants from DfE and other capital income  |       | (3,369)      | (2,718)        |
| Interest receivable   | 6     | (616)        | (442)          |
| Pension costs less contributions payable  | 28    | (266)        | (312)          |
| Pension scheme finance income   | 28    | (258)        | (175)          |
| Depreciation of tangible fixed assets   |       | 3,194        | 5,739          |
| <b>Movements in working capital:</b>  |       |              |                |
| (Increase) in debtors   |       | (764)        | (806)          |
| Increase in creditors   |       | 1,354        | 447            |
| <b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>  |       | <u>204</u>   | <u>(1,080)</u> |

### 26 Analysis of changes in net funds

|  | 1 September<br>2024<br>£000 | Cash flows<br>£000 | Other non-<br>cash changes<br>£000 | 31 August<br>2025<br>£000 |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cash                                       | 7,639                       | 889                | -                                  | 8,528                     |
| Loans falling due within one year          | (11)                        | 15                 | (11)                               | (7)                       |
| Loans falling due after more than one year | (29)                        | -                  | 11                                 | (18)                      |
|  | <u>7,599</u>                | <u>904</u>         | <u>-</u>                           | <u>8,503</u>              |

### 27 Members' liability

Each member of the academy trust 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.

### 28 Pension and similar obligations

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

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

Contributions amounting to £1,681k (2024: £950k) were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2025 and are included within other creditors.

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

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

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### 28 Pension and similar obligations (Continued)

#### Teachers' Pension Scheme

##### Introduction

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and members contribute on a 'pay as you go' basis - these contributions along with those made by employers are credited to the Exchequer. The academy trust has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The academy trust has set out below the information available on the scheme.

##### Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to 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 of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2020 in accordance with The Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 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 by the Department for Education on 26 October 2023.

The key elements 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 to 1 April 2027 (compared to 23.68% under the previous valuation including a 0.08% administration levy).

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £11,928k (2024: £10,028k).

#### Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 18.9% for employers and 5.5% to 12.5% for employees.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of 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.

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

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

### 28 Pension and similar obligations (Continued)

| Total contributions made | 2025<br>£000 | 2024<br>£000 |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Employer's contributions | 2,847        | 2,931        |
| Employees' contributions | 897          | 925          |
| Total contributions      | 3,744        | 3,856        |

#### 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<br>% | 2024<br>% |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Rate of increase in salaries                       | 4.0       | 4.0       |
| Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation | 2.5       | 2.5       |
| Discount rate for scheme liabilities               | 6.0       | 4.9       |
| Inflation assumption (CPI)                         | 2.5       | 2.5       |

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

|                      | 2025<br>Years | 2024<br>Years |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Retiring today       |               |               |
| - Males              | 22.1          | 20.8          |
| - Females            | 24.2          | 21.7          |
| Retiring in 20 years |               |               |
| - Males              | 22.1          | 24.0          |
| - Females            | 25.3          | 25.1          |

#### The Trust's share of the assets in the scheme

|                            | 2025<br>Fair value<br>£000 | 2024<br>Fair value<br>£000 |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Equities                   | 28,449                     | 26,256                     |
| Gilts                      | 589                        | 629                        |
| Other bonds                | 10,661                     | 9,748                      |
| Multi Asset Credit         | 2,651                      | 2,358                      |
| Cash                       | 707                        | 419                        |
| Property                   | 6,538                      | 5,450                      |
| Other assets               | 9,306                      | 7,547                      |
| Total fair value of assets | 58,901                     | 52,407                     |

The actual return on scheme assets was £3,831,000 (2024: £2,751,000).

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

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

### 28 Pension and similar obligations (Continued)

| Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities | 2025<br>£000 | 2024<br>£000 |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Current service cost                                       | 2,581        | 2,619        |
| Net interest cost  | (258)        | (175)        |
| Total amount recognised                                    | <u>2,323</u> | <u>2,444</u> |

| Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations | 2025<br>£000  |
|---|---------------|
| At 1 September 2024   | 48,560        |
| Current service cost  | 2,581         |
| Interest cost   | 2,376         |
| Employee contributions                                      | 897           |
| Actuarial gain  | (9,728)       |
| Benefits paid   | (1,081)       |
| At 31 August 2025   | <u>43,605</u> |

| Changes in the fair value of the Trust's share of scheme assets                     | 2025<br>£000  |
|---|---------------|
| At 1 September 2024   | 52,407        |
| Interest income   | 2,634         |
| Return on plan assets (excluding net interest on the net defined pension liability) | 1,197         |
| Employer contributions  | 2,847         |
| Employee contributions  | 897           |
| Benefits paid   | (1,081)       |
| At 31 August 2025   | <u>58,901</u> |

The Academy Trust is aware the Court of Appeal 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 5 June 2025, the Government announced its intention to introduce legislation to give affected pension schemes 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 UK Government's Actuary's Department therefore the potential impact if any, on the valuation of scheme liabilities remains unknown.

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

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

### 28 Pension and similar obligations (Continued)

|  | 2025<br>£000 |
|--|--------------|
| Present value of defined benefit obligations | (43,605)     |
| Fair value of plan assets                    | 58,901       |
|  | <hr/>        |
| Net asset                                    | 15,296       |
| Restriction to level of asset ceiling        | (15,296)     |
|  | <hr/>        |
| Net asset recognised on the balance sheet    | -            |
|  | <hr/> <hr/>  |

The value of the academy's share of net assets with the Tyne & Wear Pension Fund as been restricted due to the effect of the asset ceiling being the maximum value of the present 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.

### 29 Related party transactions

All transactions involving related parties or connected parties are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook, including notifying the DfE of all transactions made on or after 1 April 2019 and obtaining their approval where required, the trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures, unless otherwise stated.

During the year the Trust entered into transactions with the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle. The contributions made by the Trust to its Diocese for services it receives associated with securing the Trust's religious character and ethos, which only the Diocese can provide, are regarded as meeting the at cost requirement. These transactions included sales of £6,200 (2024: £nill) to its Diocese. The Trust also has a debtors balance of £1,000 (2024: £nill) and a creditors balance of £1,300 (2024: £nill) with its Diocese at year end.

Related party expenditure transactions:

During the year the Trust was invoiced £123,372 (2024: £123,191) in respect of extra-curriculum activities from Youth Ministry Trust, a charitable company controlled by the Diocese.

During the year the Trust was invoiced £171,440 in respect of contribution from schools and staff training courses (2024: £227,571 in respect of extra-curriculum activities) from the Diocese. This includes an amount of £505 (2024: £395) which is included in Trade Creditors.

Key management personnel compensation disclosure is included in note 9 and disclosure of trustee remuneration and expenses are included in note 11.

There are no other related party transactions to disclose.

# BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

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

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### 30 Agency arrangements

The Trust administers the disbursement of the new discretionary support for learners, 16-19 bursary funds, on behalf of the DfE. In the year it received £154k (2024: £217k) and disbursed £51k (2024: £115k). Included in other creditors is £330k (2024: £228k) at the year-end to be disbursed in 2025/26.

The Trust receives monies from the DfE which are then administered via the Student Loan Company to learners at the SCITT. In the year it received £518k (2024: £486k) and disbursed £512k (2024: £486k). Included in other creditors is £6k (2024: £9k) at the year end to be repaid in 2025/26.



# **INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON REGULARITY TO BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION**

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## **Conclusion**

We have carried out an engagement in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter 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 Bishop Bewick Catholic Education 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 Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust and Trustees**

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education and the Academy Trust Handbook, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received 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<sup>1</sup> (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 Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust and appointment of the accounting officer.

## **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.

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

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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 Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust and the Secretary of State for Education in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 26 November 2025. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust and the Secretary of State for Education those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Bishop Bewick Catholic Education 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*

## RSM UK Audit LLP

Chartered accountants

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Newcastle upon Tyne

United Kingdom

NE1 4AD

Dated: 15/12/25 .....